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P A P E R S

R E L A T I V E T O T H E

Restoration of the KING of TANJORE,

T H E

Arrest of the Right Hon. GEORGE LORD PIGOT,

A N D T H E

Removal of his LORDSHIP from the Government of FORT
ST. GEORGE, by fundry Members of the Council.

I N T W O V O L U M E S .

V O L . II.

Containing Letters from different Persons respecting the above Transactions,
and fundry other Papers received since the First Volume was printed.

Printed in the Year M D C C L X X V I I .



* Letter from Alexander Dalrymple, Esquire, to the Court of Directors, dated, Alexandria, 19th January 1777, and received over-land 17th March 1777.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors of the East-India Company.

HONORABLE,

I WROTE from Cairo the 14th, enclosing a Copy of Lord Pigot's Letter to you of the 9th October, by which you will perceive that I came to Suez in the Swallow sloop of war, to give your Honors the earliest and fullest intelligence of the state of your affairs on the Coast of Coromandel. I expected to have taken my passage for Marseilles immediately from hence, where I arrived this morning; but, much to my surprise, I was joined on the road by a guard, who conducted me and my baggage to the Commandant's House, and after detaining me several hours and examining in the minutest manner all my things, which they have sealed up till orders are received from Cairo, let me out, on the assurance of M. Brandi, an Italian gentleman, acting Consul here for the Northern Powers and Naples, that he would be responsible I did not leave the place before those Answers came. The reason assigned for this proceeding is, that on our departure from Suez the Bashaw's officers there put seals on our trunks, &c. On our arrival at Cairo, Mr. Baldwin said it was what he had no right to do, and desired them to be opened. Colonel Capper having opened his hand-escrutore, I was induced to open mine also, being apprehensive that the great rains we had in the journey from Suez to Cairo might have damaged the papers, and solicitous to transmit to your Honors the contents of the packet above-mentioned before my departure. Opening these packages is made the pretext for this embargo, as they suppose valuable effects have been removed; and they assented to our departure from Cairo, in hopes that those imaginary treasures would be replaced, and fall into their hands on a search here. What may be the

* Since the receipt of this Letter a Duplicate has been received, with variations and additions; also with a Memorandum, or Postscript, which is hereunto annexed.

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result

result of their disappointment time must determine. Mr. Baldwin, by a letter just now received, intimates, that he sees no likelihood of matters being accommodated but for a much larger sum than I can authorize him to give; and your packets, as well as every other paper, remain at present, sealed up by Mr. Brandi, in possession of this Government. This circumstance must be my excuse for being less explicit in regard to the state of your affairs on the Coast of Coromandel; but I write this for your information, in case any accident should happen further to us.

2. The execution of your orders for restoring Tanjore to the Rajah, though grounded on justice and good policy, and highly honorable to the nation, was extremely disgusting to the Nabob, as the acquisition of that kingdom had long been the favourite object of his pursuit, that being almost the only Gentoo Government in the Carnatic; the Nabob having, on various pretences, rooted out the others since Lord Pigot's former administration, and by these means increased his revenues above L. 350,000 per annum. The Nabob could not be prevailed on to give his consent to the restitution; in which it is said he was encouraged by Sir Robert Fletcher's assurances, that Lord Pigot dared not carry the Company's orders into execution without his, the Nabob's, consent. However, after much delay, it was determined, nemine contradicente, to carry the orders into effect without his concurrence; and it was unanimously resolved in Council, that it was necessary and proper for the President to proceed to Tanjore in person, to carry the Company's orders into execution, by restoring the Rajah to the Government of his country. Accordingly Lord Pigot left Madras the end of March, effected the business, and returned the beginning of May.

3. On our return Lord Pigot's conduct met with the approbation of the Council; Sir Robert Fletcher having gone away on pretence of indisposition, after concurring in accepting the sum offered by the Rajah for the defence of his country. Some of the other Members excepted to his Lordship's proceedings concerning the Dobbeer; and Mr. Mackay also to the punishment his Lordship had ordered to be inflicted on a Madras Dubash,

named

named Comera, who, the Rajah complained, had intruded himself into his presence, when gone to sleep, the very night of our arrival, telling him Lord Pigot would recommend to him to put his country under the Company's protection, and require an English garrison to be kept in the fort; but advising him to be firm in refusing these propositions, and to reply, that he would govern his country as his father had done, and protect it with his own troops; and assuring the Rajah he (Comera) was supported by seven Members of the Council. Every head of the Resolutions of the Council it appeared this man had been made acquainted with, and advised the Rajah to oppose, offering to supply him any sum of money he might want. It was suspected the Nabob had employed him as an emissary, to counsel the Rajah to his destruction. Lord Pigot cut his machinations very short, by ordering him to be chabucked on the public parade.

4. This man had been the instrument employed in bringing on the Rajah's misfortunes; the story I heard at Tanjore, and informed Lord Pigot, who asked the Rajah, and was assured that it was fact, at least the most material circumstances, the Rajah only reciting to his Lordship what he himself knew: perhaps writing from memory I may err in some trivial circumstances, but the general substance is too strongly imprinted on my memory to be forgotten.

5. The Nabob having, on various pretences, got the Administration to embark in the expedition against Tanjore in Mr. Duprè's government; and his son having then (in 1771) whilst our army lay before Tanjore, concluded a treaty with the Rajah; by this treaty the Rajah engaged to pay, including presents, 52 Lacks of Rupees: he accordingly, having borrowed money, and pledged part of his jewels with the Dutch, paid 40 Lacks in two years. The Nabob, still solicitous to get Tanjore, represented at Madras, that the Rajah did not mean to pay the money he had engaged. As soon as the Rajah heard this, being very much alarmed at the idea of the Nabob's intending to bring the English against him, he sent for Comera, who happened to be then at Tanjore, being concerned in
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lending money on mortgages in that country. The Rajah told him his fears, and asked him if he could give him bills payable at Madrafs for the 12 Lacks which remained due; Comera assured him he would, and received a valuable present in consequence of his giving a bill on his master Mr. Benfield. The Rajah transmitted this bill to the Nabob, and sent a Vackeel, with two fine horses, some jewels, and other presents, to the Nabob, together with a letter, expressing, that as he had now discharged his engagements, he hoped to be received into favour. Before the Rajah dispatched the bill, he sent for Comera, and interrogated him if the money would certainly be paid; he assured him it would, and swore upon milk, which is a solemn attestation amongst them, in testimony of the truth of what he said.

6. The Nabob stopped Comera in his way to Madrafs; and having settled with him, when the Vackeel was received, in presence of all the other Vackeels from the country princes, the Nabob flew out into a violent rage, abusing the Rajah for a rascal, and appealing to all the Vackeels, declaring he had received no bill, and that this was only a knavish trick of the Rajah. The Vackeel, struck with astonishment, declared the bill was given by Comera on Mr. Benfield; and Comera being produced, vowed he knew nothing of the matter, and that he had given no bill. This was one of the arguments urged for the second siege of Tanjore; at the same time Comera trumped up a story to amuse the Rajah, assuring him, that he had settled every thing with Governor Wynch, and that the Rajah had nothing to fear, at the very time his destruction was determined. The Rajah, before the commencement of the war, wrote to the Governor of Madrafs, professing his intentions of adhering to his engagements, and mentioning his having sent this bill on Mr. Benfield. That gentleman, thinking this letter required some notice on his part, wrote a letter to the President and Council, that he thought it necessary to explain what he knew of the matter, as his name was mentioned by the Rajah, though unnecessarily. He observed, that a *black man to the southward, with whom he had some mercantile concerns*, had drawn a bill upon him, without his authority, on the
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the security of a mortgage in the Tanjore country; and that the instant he heard of it, he, as a faithful servant to the Company, in obedience to their orders, would have nothing to do with it; and that his Highness the Nabob was well acquainted with all the circumstances. This *black man to the southward* was Mr. Benfield's servant Comera, and Mr. Benfield now alledges he has mortgages in the Tanjore country to a great amount.

7. Mr. Benfield finding there was an end to all his projects in the Tanjore country, by the restoration of that country to the Rajah, and the punishment inflicted on Comera, left no stone unturned to embarrass Lord Pigot; and after a Resolution passed the Council, that the Administration could not interfere in his favour concerning his transactions in the Tanjore country; the Nabob's claims of mortgages on that country being inadmissible, in consequence of the Company's orders to restore the country to the Rajah; and Mr. Benfield's other claims not being sufficiently explained; Mr. Benfield, with whom most of the Madras people are involved, had influence enough to get this Resolution revoked, the Nabob having conciliated some of the Members who had hitherto supported his Lordship.

8. Nothing followed but continual dissensions in Council; there was a constant majority against Lord Pigot in every thing which concerned the Nabob or Tanjore; and Colonel Stuart having found that Lord Pigot's protection would not be so profitable to him as the countenance of the adverse party, estranged himself totally from Lord Pigot, and attached himself to Mr. Benfield, &c. Colonel Stuart soon after his arrival was appointed to the command of Vellour, at the recommendation of Sir Robert Fletcher, who assigned such good reasons for this appointment, that I, as well as others of Lord Pigot's friends, very heartily concurred in the measure, although his Lordship had mentioned in Council that Colonel Stuart wished to go to the southward. Some time after, when Colonel Stuart had changed his attachments, he wrote a Letter to Sir Robert Fletcher, claiming Tanjore as the most important command, although only three companies of Europeans were in that place, and a whole battalion at Vellour; and Sir

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Robert

Robert Fletcher recommended that he should be accordingly appointed. There was a considerable time passed between this application and any resolution upon it; and in the mean while the Rajah having learnt that Colonel Stuart was intended to be sent down, and very much alarmed that a person intimately connected with Mr. Benfield, &c. should be sent, requested that Colonel Harper might be continued in the command. This the Majority absolutely refused, and resolved that Colonel Stuart should be appointed.

9. Lord Pigot had recommended that a Chief and Council should be established at Tanjore, which he knew would be very acceptable to the Rajah, and was convinced would be beneficial to the Company. The Majority carried this in the negative; but Mr. Russell was appointed Resident there without a Council; Mr. Stratton, who had voted against the other, voting for this: however, the very day of Mr. Dawson's departure, that Gentleman having always supported Lord Pigot, Mr. Jourdan threw down upon the Consultation Table a paper, which he said was a Motion about the Committee of Circuit, and Mr. Mackay seconded it before it was read, or the contents explained; it was, "That the Committee of Circuit" (of which Mr. Russell was a member) should immediately set out." The obvious intention was to prevent Mr. Russell from proceeding to Tanjore, which was become the more necessary, from the refusal of the Majority to grant the Rajah's request to continue Colonel Harper in the command, who was an unexceptionable man, and had always been particularly attentive not to give offence to the Gentoos in their ceremonies and customs; and the reports which had been spread that Lord Pigot was shortly to return to England. Lord Pigot thought it necessary that a person of consequence should go to Tanjore to remove all the Rajah's apprehensions, and assure him, that he might rely on your Honors protection; and his Lordship made choice of Mr. Russell, not only as a person likely to gain the Rajah's confidence, but as his appointment would testify that his Lordship had not lost all influence in the Council, as was industriously propagated. Every argument and entreaty his Lordship could use were in vain; the Majority

majority of the Council repeatedly refused to let Mr. Russell go to Tanjore, even for a few days; and his Lordship was, for the reasons he had repeatedly given, induced to declare, he never would give his assent to Colonel Stuart's going until Mr. Russell went. This matter remained long in altercation; but in August the Majority determined to carry their point, which was become of the more consequence, from the very extraordinary pains the Nabob had taken to prevent Mr. Russell's appointment; a matter in which, apparently, his interest was not in any degree concerned; and it was said Colonel Stuart had undertaken, for a profitable consideration, to manage Mr. Benfield's concerns, and was to carry a relation of Comera as his Dubash.

10. When the matter came into consideration, Lord Pigot again repeated his request that Mr. Russell might be permitted to go to Tanjore; begging, that as it was in itself a matter which could not be of essential injury to the Company, they would grant it to his request, if they still continued to think the appointment unnecessary. However they were inflexible, and gave in separate Minutes in writing, that Colonel Stuart should be sent with instructions, which they expressed their approbation of, although those instructions had not been read or considered at the Council Board. Lord Pigot declared he would not put his name to any instructions at that time to Colonel Stuart; and the Majority, probably to consult with Sir Robert Fletcher, who was not present, desired the Council might be adjourned, as it was a very serious matter, and required time to consider what should be done: this the President readily assented to. When the Council again met, his Lordship observed, that Colonel Stuart's going to Tanjore was not essential to the Company's interest; he represented the many inconveniences that would attend carrying matters further, the difficulty it would lay the officers under, who are ordered to obey the President and his Council by the Commission of Government which constitutes him the Governor, and names the several persons appointed in Council the better to enable him to manage the affairs of the Company; observing, that the tenor of all Commissions requires obedience to the President and Council, without any proviso

proviso of a *Majority* of Council; he earnestly entreated that it might be left to your Honors' decision, whether the *Majority* could act without the President's concurrence, which he knew from his own experience in forty years service never had been done, and the records of the Company in former times shew was not the original constitution; not to mention the Royal Charter of 1753, constituting the Courts of Justice, in which, in almost every instance where the Council is named, the Governor is expressly required to be *one*. That a President could do nothing against the consent of his Council, but that his concurrence was equally necessary to constitute an act of Government as the consent of the Majority; which concurrence, indeed, a President would in general give, even against his own opinion, as he, by refusing his assent, took the whole responsibility upon himself; but in cases where no essential detriment could happen by his refusal, but much inconvenience might ensue from his assent, it was his duty to withhold it. All he could urge was in vain; and as the mode of their proceeding had been mentioned in the debate of the former day, his Lordship came prepared for all probable events; and when Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke put their names to a Letter to the Secretary, to sign Colonel Stuart's instructions *By Order of the Council*, instead of the usual form, *By Order of the President and Council*, his Lordship desired it might be handed to him; which being done, he said he would stop the business in that stage, and produced a charge against those gentlemen, as being guilty of an act subversive of the authority of Government, and tending to introduce anarchy, by signing an order to the Secretary to issue instructions to Colonel Stuart, which had not been approved and passed by the President and Council. The matter was come to that alternative, or the Governor appointed by your Honors must have been a cypher; except when they found it convenient to make use of him as a stalking horse, for every base act they might think proper to use his name in. Pursuant to the standing orders, "That whenever a charge is made against any Member of the Council they are to withdraw," the President moved, that those gentlemen should withdraw; explaining himself, that he did not mean to leave the room, but only their seats at the Council Board. An adjournment of the Council was proposed, which

seemed to meet the general concurrence, that the gentlemen might have time to make a reply to the charge, or remove it by an acquiescence with the President's former recommendation to refer it to your Honors; but they declared they did not consider it as a charge, and that it did not deserve any answer. The President then moved, that they should be suspended till your pleasure be known; which was passed in the affirmative by the President's casting vote.

11. Next day all the Members of Council present at Madras, except the two suspended Members, were summoned to Council; Sir Robert Fletcher, Messieurs Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, instead of attending according to the summons, sent by a Notary Public a letter, signed by themselves and by Messieurs Stratton and Brooke, declaring they were the only legal representatives of the Company. Of this letter no notice was taken, as it was thought some at least would reflect on the impropriety of their proceedings, and it was intended to summon them again to the next Council. However, in the afternoon, copies of this letter were, by their order, circulated in the garrison to the officer of the main guard, the town major, secretaries, &c. This act tending to excite a mutiny required immediate attention; the President called a Council, when Sir Robert Fletcher was ordered into arrest, and the other gentleman suspended: Colonel Stuart was of course appointed to the command of the troops, and he supped with Lord Pigot in the Fort-house; his Lordship not thinking it proper to go out of the Fort that evening to sup at the Company's Garden-house, as he usually did, although he always returned at night to the Fort. Colonel Stuart next morning invited himself to breakfast with his Lordship, and afterwards to dinner.

12. Lord Pigot being informed that the Nabob was under the greatest apprehensions from what had happened in Council, to quiet his fears added a paragraph to a letter which had been resolved on in Council some days before, in which his Lordship observed, that he was sensible the contents of that letter were on subjects not agreeable to his Highness; that nothing
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could have induced him to mention them but his duty to the Company, assuring the Nabob he would be happy if his Highness would point out in what manner he could testify his regard ; and this his Lordship sent by Mr. Holland, the Company's Translator.

13. In the evening, at the Fort-house, Colonel Stuart, in presence of Mr. Russell, Myself, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Lathom, strenuously urged delay till next morning, but at last assured Lord Pigot, upon *his honour*, that he would that night issue to the out garrisons the order of Sir Robert Fletcher's being under arrest, if we would order the Tappies to be detained, which was done accordingly. His Lordship was deceived by the candour of his own disposition, and had no suspicion of Colonel Stuart's villainy, who was only amusing him till it was dark ; Colonel Stuart having at this time an order in his pocket, signed by himself, to Captain Lyfaught, for conveying his Lordship a prisoner to the Mount.

14. Lord Pigot went with Colonel Stuart, he having asked his Lordship to convey him to the Company's Garden-house to supper ; when the chaise was got about half a mile from the Fort, Colonel Edington, the Adjutant-General, came running towards them, and when he approached the horses heads, he waved his drawn sword, and called out *Seapoys!* when a party came from the other side, and Captain Lyfaught came up to the chaise with a pistol in his hand, and told Lord Pigot he was his prisoner ; and Colonel Stuart, taking his Lordship by the arm, said, "Get out." Lord Pigot was then conducted to Mr. Benfield's post-chaise, which was standing by the road side ; an orderly serjeant came out of it, and his Lordship was desired to get in ; Captain Lyfaught followed, keeping the pistol in his hand, and conveyed him to the Mount, where he delivered him as a prisoner into the custody of Major Horne, who commanded the artillery cantoned there. Colonel Stuart returned to the Fort, and declared Mr. Stratton to be the Governor.

15. Mr:

15. Mr. Stratton and his Associates published a Proclamation, in the name of his Majesty and the *English Nation*, declaring the motives of their conduct in making his Lordship a prisoner, which was principally grounded on Lord Pigot's having refused his assent to Colonel Stuart's going to Tanjore, which the Majority had determined to be *necessary*; though, since their assuming the Government, that *necessity* has vanished, Colonel Stuart's presence having been thought still more necessary for their protection. The other motives were, his Lordship having insisted that he had a right to adjourn the Council, maintaining his assent being necessary to make an act of Government, and his refusing to put a question to the vote, notwithstanding the sense of the majority.

16. His Lordship never proposed an adjournment to stop any enquiry against himself or his friends, but there must be some rules of order; and it seems the natural office of the President to adjourn as to call a Council; otherwise an opposition, with strong constitutions, might, by relieving each other, carry any measure they pleased, or put a total stop to all business.

17. The objection concerning his Lordship's refusing to put a question to the vote requires some explanation. The established custom of the service, confirmed by your Honor's orders, and the recent resolutions of the Council, when a public advertisement was affixed to the gates to that effect, many of the Members of the present Majority concurring therein, is, that all intercourse with the country powers shall be confined to the President; by the laxity of Government this and almost every other regulation had been broke through; not long before our arrival this order was enforced, forbidding visits to the Nabob, &c. without the President's leave; and the Governor-General and Council in Bengal, to whom the matter had been referred by Mr. Wynch and his Council, declared the prohibition was conformable to the established regulations of the service and your orders. On Lord Pigot's arrival, finding spies had been kept on the Nabob to bring account of every thing he said, he informed the

Nabob that he had removed all these, and would not restrain any body from visiting him, being persuaded his Highness would pay that attention to his old friend's advice, which no other person would be able to withdraw, should there be any one so inclined. When Lord Pigot found that the proceedings in Council were communicated to the Nabob immediately, and had good reason to believe Members of the Board had given the Nabob advice to obstruct him in the management of the Company's affairs, he thought it proper to withdraw the general license, and on a motion in Council it passed as a resolution, that no Member of the Council should visit or receive visits from the Nabob or his Sons.

18. Sir Robert Fletcher was one who voted against this resolution; some time after he proposed a Motion to rescind that resolution; his Lordship observed, that passing resolutions one day, and rescinding them the next, were extremely prejudicial to the Company's interest, by making the Government contemptible for its fickleness; but in the present instance, it was by the regulations of the Service, and the orders of the Company, a privilege vested in their Governor, and was not therefore a proper subject of the Council's discussion; that he would not put the question, although it was almost the only question he could think of that he would not put, as he knew the resolution was entirely conformable to the Company's orders, of the propriety of which orders he was every day sensible; that he saw a breach of those orders, by rescinding the resolution, could answer no purpose but increasing his difficulties in transacting the Company's affairs. At the same time that he refused to put this question of Sir Robert Fletcher for rescinding a former resolution, he offered to put one of Mr. Mackay's for rescinding another resolution, because that did not concern the Company essentially, but himself. However Mr. Mackay declined having it put, as the other was refused. It may also be observed, that if Members in a Minority can again introduce when they please a matter which has been carried by a Majority, the same subject may be eternally renewed, and a total stop put to all business.

19. Mr.

19. Mr. Mackay, who now pretends to be so much the Nabob's friend, proposed in Council, soon after the Grenville's arrival, to seize the Nabob's person; and afterwards endeavoured to persuade me that my objections to it, as a breach of public faith which no apprehensions could vindicate, were romantic and unsupported, and that my notions were incompatible with public business.

20. Almost the first act of the self-made Government was to write letters to Mr. Russell, Myself, and Mr. Stone, saying, the support we had given to Lord Pigot convinced them no dependence could be put in us, and therefore that they suspended us the service; and they afterwards wrote a similar letter to Mr. Lathom, who had attended but one Council.

21. The morning after the Nabob came in great state into the Fort to congratulate Mr. Stratton, and gave public testimony of his rejoicing. It is reported, however, that they have in vain endeavoured to get from him, in writing, the sanction of his name to the measures they have pursued, though his gold has the credit of being the instrument which brought about these events.

22. Immediately after assuming the Government, Mr. Stratton, &c. promised a reward in public orders to the soldiers, doubled the port guards, and appointed a piquet guard, being alarmed by their own fears; and sent an order to Major Horne, under their hands, that in case of any attempt being made to rescue Lord Pigot, his Lordship's life must answer it; and a few days after Colonel Edington was sent to remove his Lordship at midnight from the Mount, he would not tell whither. It is now said Chingleput was the place, but there are good grounds to believe that would not have been his Lordship's fate. However Lord Pigot declared he would not trust himself with a traitor, and that whilst he had life he would not be removed from thence, but to his own Fort or his Majesty's ship. His determination, and the sense the men seemed to have of his Lordship's situation, induced Major Horne to become

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security

security for that time. It since appears, by the affidavit of Mr. Randall, who is gone to England in the Grenville, that the Nabob's second son had before this been tampering for his Lordship's assassination; great pains have been taken to invalidate Mr. Randall's evidence, but there is scarce a man in the Settlement who is not *now of opinion*, or who has not heretofore expressed such sentiments, that the second son is capable of that or any villainy to promote his ambitious views; for my own part I have not experience or knowledge of him to judge from my own observations.

23. The Governor-General and Council in Bengal have taken a decided part, in declaring they will support Mr. Stratton, &c. in the Government, although they say they were not then become masters of all the circumstances which produced this event. This resolution of their's will probably secure his Lordship's person for the present, but men are not without apprehensions on that account hereafter. His Lordship bears his situation with that dignity, fortitude, and tranquillity, which constitute his character.

24. This change has taken away all confidence the natives had in our Government, as they cannot think themselves secure, either in their persons or property, when they see a Governor, of such known abilities and distinguished public services, can be deprived of that government, which his spirited conduct saved from the public enemy, and whose commission expressly says he shall continue in the execution of that trust till removed by the Court of Directors; and whether this be effected by an appeal to the army, who are to obey and not to judge, or by the mandate of the Nabob, is equally alarming. It is positively said the Nabob has opened his hoards upon the occasion, and that Mortiz Aly Cawn's money, taken in Vellour in 1762, has been produced, and the half-batta has been restored.

25. A few days before Lord Pigot was seized, Sir Robert Fletcher, who, being indisposed, had not attended Council, sent a letter recommending that the Europeans should be removed from Madras, and that

that the half-batta should be restored, reproaching himself for his hasty acquiescence in that proposition of the President; by which he obviously meant to alienate the affections of the army from the Governor, although he and all his associates had concurred in that measure without objection; and it now appears he had gained over the Captains of the two battalions of Scapoys stationed at Madras, viz. Edington and Barclay.

26. Soon after Lord Pigot was made a prisoner, Mr. Benfield and Comera went to Tanjore. Mr. Benfield carried a letter, which he endeavoured to get the Rajah to write to Madras, but the Rajah positively refused. It is supposed this letter was an accusation of or complaint against Lord Pigot; and Mr. Stratton tells the Rajah in a letter, that he knows him to be weak, timid, and obstinate. This letter I believe went by Mr. Benfield, and was the commencement of his correspondence. Your Honors may easily conceive what the Rajah must feel on the occasion.

27. The particular situation in which I am, deprived of access to all papers, will be my excuse for this imperfect narration: I shall only add, that I am,

Honorable,

Your faithful humble Servant,

Alexandria,
19th January 1777.

A. DALRYMPLE.

P. S. His Majesty's sloop Swallow, Captain Panton, is now at Suez; as several of his people have the scurvy, and all of them require refreshment, the southerly winds, which continue about a month, may perhaps set in before he is ready to depart; it is therefore possible your Honors, by an application to the Lords of the Admiralty,

miralty, might obtain an order from their Lordships in time for her continuance at Suez to carry your dispatches. Vessels have come from Marseilles to this place in eleven days.

* MEMORANDUM. The foregoing letter having been written from memory without recourse to any papers, I perceive a few mistakes to be corrected, and I think some additions necessary; these additions are chiefly from authentic translations of letters from and to the King of Tanjore, and from some memorandums of Lord Pigot's in my possession; the last I have marked L. P. to distinguish them from my own: the references mark the paragraph of the letter to which they relate.

Par. 3. "As settling affairs at Tanjore without the Nabob's consent was a matter in which many difficulties might be expected, and where an impediment might by a short delay become an insurmountable obstacle, I thought it would be proper to go thither myself to execute the Company's orders, and all the Members of the Council agreed *unanimously*, that it was *proper* and *necessary* for me to go to Tanjore."

"Some Members were proposed to be joined in deputation, but the Majority over-ruled that proposal, which came from Sir Robert Fletcher, who objected to the management of the Tanjore business being intrusted to the President *alone*; although but a little time before he had proposed to me, and has since entered that Minute on record, that the *whole* charge should be entrusted to the *military officer* at Tanjore. Mens' disappointments on this occasion, several Members having expressed their wishes to me in private that they might go to Tanjore, together with private concerns and connexions, laid the foundation of that opposition which has uniformly subsisted since then. Sir Robert Fletcher, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Jourdan, and Mr. Mackay dissented on the subject of a deputation. To convince them and the world that I had no sinister view in going to Tanjore, I offered to carry with

* This Memorandum was received, with a corrected copy of the foregoing Letter, the 7th of April 1777.

“ me Mr. Jourdan, who had before applied to me to go thither, and he
“ accepted my offer, although there was no deputation.”

“ I proceeded to Tanjore the 30th March, re-established the Rajah in
“ his Government, and returned to Madras, where I arrived the 5th May,
“ having received a letter from the Rajah, requesting that the Company
“ would not only garrison the fort, but protect his whole country with
“ their troops, for which he offered to pay annually 400,000 Pagodas.”

“ Upon my return my conduct was approved by the Council, who
“ unanimously agreed to accept the Rajah's offer of 400,000 Pagodas
“ per annum, in consideration of defending the Tanjore country.”

“ Had the *Fort of Tanjore alone* been garrisoned by us, and the country
“ defended by the Rajah's troops, there would have been constant disputes
“ between them and the Nabob's people in every quarter; and if our
“ garrison in Tanjore was not so large as to awe the Rajah's forces, instead
“ of being a security and additional strength to the Company on this
“ Coast, a garrison in Tanjore would have greatly weakened them; the
“ Rajah would probably have removed the seat of his residence to some
“ other place; but by protecting the whole country the Rajah is more
“ firmly established, having nothing to fear from any parties at home, or
“ enemies from abroad; and being eased of a great expense, the money sti-
“ pulated to be paid to the Company (being very considerably less than
“ what his military usually cost) the Rajah will have a sum annually to
“ lay out in improving his country, to which his attention will be solely
“ directed; and the Tanjore country being on all sides confined by the
“ Nabob's country or the sea, the Company cannot be under the
“ necessity to make any increase in their military establishment on that
“ account; but on the contrary, there being but one interest in the Car-
“ natic, there is less danger, having none but foreign foes to guard against
“ and nobody within to unite with them.”

E

“ Some

" Some measure of this kind was essentially necessary, for although our
 " receipts on this coast have been adequate to defray our expenses and
 " investment, the Company for some time past receiving the arrears of the
 " Nabob's debt to the amount of about 400,000 Pagodas per annum, yet,
 " when the whole of this debt is paid off, which will be in little more
 " than a year, there will then be a deficiency in the receipts, and conse-
 " quently either the investment must have been lessened, or the present
 " establishment must have been diminished, as it is the highest absurdity
 " to keep up troops in time of peace which you are unable to pay; so
 " that it was a very happy incident to make this provision in a manner
 " entirely to the satisfaction, and for the interest of both parties. The
 " Governor-General and Council of Bengal condemn me for having
 " used my influence with the Rajah to get him to write the letter making
 " this offer, although I must have been wanting in every sense of my
 " duty if I had not, as it was so much the interest of the Company, and
 " of the Carnatic in general; and as it was unanimously resolved in Council,
 " that it was necessary to have the whole military force in the Carnatic
 " under the Company, and paid by them, the safety of the Carnatic
 " depending on a well disciplined force, regularly paid, being kept up;
 " which troops in the service of the country powers never are for any
 " length of time; and the Board also were unanimous in their wish, that
 " the Rajah of Tanjore might join them in their endeavours to place the
 " country in this situation."

" But at the same time I must do the Rajah justice to say, that
 " although he very readily conceived the propriety of what I represented
 " to him, and as readily assented to it, yet so far from his letter being *more*
 " than a *sense of gratitude* could draw from *any Prince**, that the offer of
 " territory about Devy Cotah came entirely from himself, without a
 " hint on my part, and his sense of gratitude and attachment to the
 " Company for restoring him to his liberty and kingdom without reserva-

"tion was unlimited, so that he thought he could not by any words or actions sufficiently express his confidence in them." L. P.

Par. 10. The President had the day before assured them, that if they would acquiesce in his claim of putting a negative till the pleasure of the Court of Directors was known, he would not put that negative, except on extraordinary occasions, where the interest of the Company was essentially at stake.

Par. 10. Lord Pigot says, "he was assured the Majority had bound themselves by an oath to support each other." L. P. This circumstance I did not recollect when the Letter was written.

Par. 15. I find Colonel Stuart's words were, "Go, Sir," or "go out, Sir."

Par. 16. On these three heads Lord Pigot had, in reply to a former Minute from them, expressed himself very clearly in the draft of a General Letter to the Court of Directors, proposed to be sent by the Grenville, which he laid before the Council the 19th August; and therefore these matters being referred to the Court of Directors, who were alone competent to decide upon them, cannot be considered as any grounds for their proceedings. Vide also the last Note but one.

Par. 23. Some time before this (21st July) an anonymous Persian Letter was left in the Fort-house; in this Letter are the following paragraphs.

"I can with great ease procure many proofs in writing of the assistance given to the Nabob by Members of the Council, and I shall in presence of his Lordship make a public declaration of what sums have been received by these gentlemen, on condition that the Members of the Company in Europe shall give me a Cowle granting me their protection."

"The

“ The Nabob says publickly in his Durbar, Who is Lord Pigot? I
 “ will not condescend to see him, and I will spend Crores to get him turn-
 “ ed out of his government; my sons even shall not be permitted to visit
 “ him. The Commodore, a Sirdar of the King of England, sees me
 “ often, and I can manage my affairs through his means.”

Ameer-ul Omrah, the Nabob's second son, has declared publickly, “ That
 “ he has been at great pains to form a Majority in his favour of the Mem-
 “ bers of the Board, and that Lord Pigot *will shortly be turned out of the*
 “ *Council Room.*” And I am assured, since his Lordship's confinement,
 from what I think very good authority, that Hyder Ally's Vackeel affirms,
 the Nabob's second son declared to him, “ That he (Mr. Benfield) and
 “ Colonel Stuart contrived and executed it, and that he can now do in
 “ Council what he pleased.”

In regard to the first paragraph quoted of the anonymous Letter, I think
 it not amiss to observe, that one day in Council, before Lord Pigot went
 to Tanjore, Sir Robert Fletcher expressed surprize that there was not a
 Letter from the Nabob; and unguardedly recited some circumstances
 which were contained in a Letter sent by the Nabob soon after: I had with-
 drawn when he recited those circumstances, but they were so pointed,
 that both Lord Pigot and Mr. Russell afterwards took notice of them
 to me.

The anonymous Letter adds, “ The Nabob was once determined to
 “ have entered into all Lord Pigot's measures, as he was convinced his
 “ Lordship was not to be led into his; but some English gentlemen told
 “ him, that he should not listen to his Lordship; that the King of
 “ England and the Parliament were his friends, and could prosecute the
 “ Company for their orders. The Nabob, thus instructed by them, grew
 “ bold and refractory, or else he would have assented to whatever the
 “ Company ordered.”

“ Soon

Soon after the Grenville's arrival Lord Pigot told me he was informed there were different opinions in the Nabob's Durbar about the Tanjore business; that the Nabob's old Counsellors had given their opinion to this effect, "This must be done, Lord Pigot is a firm man, but it may be done by *consent* or *compulsion*. Lord Pigot has ever been your friend; if done in the manner he recommends, you may be sure of his friendship; and that nothing will be done without your knowledge, and always in the manner least exceptionable; but if he is compelled to do this by the Company's authority, you cannot know what it may lead to, or what may be hereafter done by that authority."

The other party alledged, "This was done not by the Nabob alone, but by the Governor and Council and Court of Directors; that the Nabob had therefore a right to insist that it should not be undone without referring his case to the Court of Directors."

The words are, I find, "timorous, *fickle*, and weak."

Par. 25. The Rajah, in a Letter to his Vackeel at Madras, says, "On 1st Shaban (15th September) Mr. Benfield and Coletapa Moodaly (Comera) came to deliver me Mr. Stratton's Letter; the 3d, being a feast day, I was visited by Coletapa Moodaly only; on the 5th they came together, and desired that I would answer the Governor's Letter; upon my promising to do so, Mr. Benfield told me that he would give me a copy of what I was to write; I asked him why he should dictate an answer to a Letter I had received? that I myself would do it; he told me that I must not act in that manner, that he would go and bring me what I was to write; he accordingly the next day produced a foul copy of a Letter in English, which I had translated; upon examining it I found *that it touched on an accusation of Lord Pigot*: I then said, it was not proper for me to write *such things as had not an existence*, but that I would declare what had happened, and give a direct answer to the Letter I received; this I did, and he got it translated into English; after which he told me *it was not proper*, and that *I must do as he directed me*; I did every

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"thing

" thing in my power to excuse myself, but he remained positive, and continued to importune me every day."

On the 12th Mr. Benfield called upon me, and soon after returned home. I then sent for Coletapa Moodaly, and said to him, " You prevent me from answering the Governor's Letter, and he will be offended at my not doing it. The opposition you make is fruitless; you may depend upon it I will not write what you desire me; consent then that I write a true account of what has happened. You are a man of consequence; let us settle this business amicably, and be not discontented."

" He would give no ear to what I said, but maliciously declared, that he wanted *no such answer* to Mr. Stratton's Letter; and desired that I would write an answer to the second Letter, which related to themselves only: he then went away, threatening that he would not return again. What a state of uncertainty am I in at present? Should this man wickedly misrepresent things, who will believe me? On Wednesday the 13th I wrote and gave him an Answer to the second Letter I received; the Answer to the first now remains by me: I told him that I would be very happy if he received it, but that if he did not I would send it through another channel; he told me that he would not take it, and desired me *to mark what would happen after his departure from hence*. He added,

" You will *repent* this *when* it is *too late*; I will see the time when you will be in the same situation with his Lordship, and that four Counsellors shall be stationed here; *then see what will befall you*: After this he went home.

" Mr. Benfield told me, that, if I did as he desired, he would settle every thing to my satisfaction, and that it would be much to my advantage; if *not*, that I would meet with the *resentment* of the Council, and *none of my wishes would be accomplished*. This is the manner in which he threatens me; if I refuse him any thing, I know not what consequence may await me. Benfield does not consider my station, or the respect that is due to it."

Extracts

Extracts of a Letter from the Vackeel to the Rajah.

" Mr. Stratton then said, that you was much impoverished by a sum of money you had given Lord Pigot ; I told him, that when Lord Pigot went to Tanjore, re-established you, and was returning to Madrafs, he refused even to receive his honorary dress which you offered him.

" What money and effects (said I) was there then in the country ?
 " Every thing was carried away, and the bare walls of the Fort only remained standing, that when you was restored you had not even a carpet to sit upon ; and how was it then possible that you could give ready money to his Lordship ?

" He desired that I would make particular enquiry, and told me that his Lordship had received two diamonds of great value: I answered, that when the country had been robbed of all the jewels belonging to it, where could these diamonds come from ? He then said, that I must enquire of every person, and *endeavour to bring his Lordship in guilty* ; I told him that I had it not in my power to do so.

" He then said, that you had given his Lordship and Moodoo Kistnah an obligation for a sum of money ; and that 400,000 Cullums of grain had come from Tanjore for this purpose : I then assured him, that *no grain was given to his Lordship* ; that you had sent the above-mentioned quantity, as there was an overplus in your country and a scarcity of it in Madrafs* ; that no other grain was given ; and that the whole was a report only, and did not deserve belief.—Mr. Stratton told me, that *I lied* ; that if I would make him fully acquainted with this business he would be very much my friend ; and he *threw many temptations in the way of your servant*. I told him, that you did not allow me to want for any thing ; that I had his favour likewise ; that I would inform him of matters of fact, but that *I would not be guilty of telling a falsity*."

" A. DALRYMPLE."

* This refers to the grain bought by the Company.

Enclosures in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet.

Letter from Lord Pigot to the Court of Directors, dated St. Thomas's Mount 3d September 1776; received over-land 7 April 1777.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs, &c.

HONORABLE,

THE very extraordinary revolution that has happened within these few days, by which I have been deprived of the Government, and am now kept a prisoner, requires your Honors to be made acquainted therewith as soon as possible by two French ships, which sailed from this coast some time ago, you will be made acquainted with the dissensions in Council, but it will be necessary on this occasion to recapitulate some circumstances.

On 29th May 1776 the President and Council resolved, that the Nabob's orders in the Tanjore country were by your instructions to restore the country to the Rajah inadmissible, and that the private claims of Mr. Benfield were not sufficiently explained for the President and Council to form any opinion thereupon; Mr. Brooke concurred in this resolution; but a few days after he desired the matter might be re-considered; this was very candidly acquiesced in; on reconsidering the Resolution of the 29th May, Mr. Brooke voted *against confirming* it, by which means it was in fact *rescinded*.

After rescinding the Resolution of the 29th May, the King of Tanjore wrote to his Vackeel, expressing his apprehensions at a report propagated that I was speedily to return to England; I gave the Vackeel my assurances that there was no truth in this report, but I thought it absolutely necessary to quiet the Rajah's alarms by sending a person of consequence thither, in whom the Rajah could confide, and proposed Mr. Russell, who I thought was in every respect a proper person to gain the Rajah's confidence, and to convince him that your good intentions towards him would be put in execution; and Mr. Russell having in Council given me his support, this ap-
pointment

pointment would be a testimony to the Rajah that my influence in Council was not entirely lost, as had been industriously propagated. I proposed Mr. Russell to be Chief at Tanjore with a Council, but that question was carried against me; I then recommended that Mr. Russell might be sent to Tanjore as Resident, and he was accordingly appointed; Mr. Stratton, who had voted against a Chief and Council, concurring in the appointment of a Resident: but the very day of Mr. Dawson's departure, that Gentleman having supported my measures, a Motion was made for the Committee of Circuit to proceed immediately. The obvious intention of this Motion was to prevent Mr. Russell's going to Tanjore, the necessity of which was become the more urgent by the refusal of the Majority to grant the Rajah's request, that Lieutenant-Colonel Harper might be continued in the command of Tanjore, and proposing Colonel Stuart, who was notoriously known to be intimately connected with those persons who had uniformly opposed my measures concerning Tanjore, and with others, at least suspected by the Rajah, to have been instrumental in bringing upon him all the distresses which he had suffered, whose money-matters, it was confidently reported, Colonel Stuart had for a pecuniary consideration undertaken to manage for them.

So circumstanced, I repeatedly requested that Mr. Russell might be allowed to proceed to Tanjore, if it was but for a few days; this was however refused by the Majority, and I declared I would not give my assent to Colonel Stuart's going to Tanjore till Mr. Russell was gone thither, for the reasons beforementioned: the Majority at last, on the 22d August, determined to order the Secretary to sign instructions to Colonel Stuart *by order of Council*, I having refused to give them the sanction of my name. On this occasion I recommended to them to let the matter rest till your pleasure was known, whether a Majority could act without the Governor?—I observed, that Colonel Stuart having the command of Tanjore was not a matter essential to the Company's interest; I represented the many inconveniences that would arise, the fatal consequences to themselves, the difficulties it must lay Officers under, who are by their own commissions ordered to obey the

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President

President and Council, and are by the commission of Government required to obey me your President and Governor, and my Council, without any the smallest authority being given to the Majority of the Council over the Officers, Soldiers, &c. I insisted the name of the President was necessary to make an act of Government ; I admitted that the President was generally required to concur with the Majority of the Council for the carrying on the business of the Company without interruption, but that when he thought measures tended to the essential detriment of the Company, it was not only *his right* but his *duty* to put a negative thereon ; which however a President would seldom do but in cases of necessity, as he made himself solely responsible ; I observed that my experience in 40 years service confirmed me in this position, that the President's name was necessary to make an act of Government. My representations had no weight ; the matter had been repeatedly agitated, and although I wished it might be left to your Honors decision, I came prepared for all probable events ; and when, in defiance of every thing I could say, my request to leave the matter to the Company, my particular intreaty to Mr. Brooke not to sign any thing of the kind, Messrs. Stratton and Brooke did sign the order to the Secretary, I desired to see the paper, which being handed to me, I declared I would stop the business in that stage, and produced a charge against those two Gentlemen for an act subversive of the authority of Government, and tending to introduce anarchy, by ordering the Secretary to send instructions to Colonel Stuart, which had not been approved and passed by the President and Council.

The charge being read, I moved, in pursuance of the standing orders, that when a charge is made against any Members of Council, such Members not to have a seat, it be recommended to those Gentlemen to withdraw ; explaining myself, that I did not mean *leaving the room*, but that *they should quit their Seats at the Council Table*. Some debate arising, and a proposal having been made to adjourn, some of my friends concurred in wishing an adjournment, with a view to give the Gentlemen time to answer the charge ; but they declaring they did not consider it as a charge, and that it did not deserve

deserve any answer, after some debate, I moved that Messrs. Stratton and Brooke should be suspended the Company's service, till your pleasure shall be known, which was accordingly carried in the affirmative by my casting vote; the Council was then adjourned.

In the evening a summons to meet in Council next morning was sent round to Claud Russell, Esq. Sir Robert Fletcher, Alexander Dalrymple, Charles Floyer, John Maxwell Stone, Archdale Palmer, Richard Lathom, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires, who, after the suspension Messrs. Stratton and Brooke, were the only Members of the Council at this place.

On Friday the 23d August some of the Members, instead of attending Council, sent a Notary Public with the following Letter :

To the Right Honorable Lord Pigot, President, &c.

Claud Russell, Alexander Dalrymple, and John Maxwell Stone, Esquires,
of Council at Fort St. George.

“ MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

“ W E whose names are underwritten, being of Council, and constituting a Majority hereof, taking into our most serious consideration the proceedings upon record at the two last meetings, and more particularly the unexampled outrage offered to the Constitution, and arbitrary behaviour towards two of our Members, by an illegal attempt to suspend them in order by a trick to get a Majority, are of opinion, that the public safety is endangered by the conduct of Lord Pigot, and you Gentlemen who have supported, and by every person who shall continue to support such measures, and we shall hold you therefore responsible for all the consequences that may ensue. We, the Majority of the Board, do consider

“ sider ourselves as the only legal Representatives of the Honorable Com-
“ pany under this Presidency, and as such we have no doubt but that all
“ the Servants of the Company will regard us.

“ For these reasons, and the evident illegality of the summons to Council
“ for this morning, in which are omitted the names of Mr. George Strat-
“ ton and Mr. Henry Brooke, two legal Members of the Board, we
“ cannot consistently with the duty we owe to our Honorable Employers
“ attend the said Summons.

“ We are,

“ My Lord, and Gentlemen,

“ Your most obedient humble servants,

“ (Signed) by GEORGE STRATTON,
ROBERT FLETCHER,
HENRY BROOKE,
CHARLES FLOYER,
ARCHDALE PALMER,
FRANCIS JOURDAN,
GEORGE MACKAY.”

Willing to give them time to reflect, when this Letter was read in Coun-
cil, no measure was taken thereon. It was intended again to summon
the Members who were not suspended on Monday, by which time it was
thought some of them at least would be sensible of the impropriety of their
behaviour and make such acknowledgment as was becoming on the occa-
sion ; however they were undeserving of this lenity. They sent for Charles
Bromley, a Notary Public, to Sir Robert Fletcher's house, and ordered him
to circulate Copies of the foregoing Letter about town, and among other
persons to Sir Edward Hughes, the Commanders of the Company's ships,
the Secretaries, the Town-Major, the Officer of the Main-guard, &c.

Many of these Letters were produced in Council, which was again assembled after dinner, and the Notary Public being sent for avowed his having circulated those Letters by the particular orders of Mr. Stratton and the other Gentlemen whose names were thereto. This act of sedition could not be passed over ; Sir Robert Fletcher was ordered into arrest, Colonel Stuart appointed to the command of the troops, and Mess. Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan and Mackay, were suspended the Company's service until your pleasure shall be known.

I sent for Colonel Stuart, who came to me, and, having acknowledged our authority, supped with me at the Fort-house, as I did not think it prudent to go out of the garrison to supper under such circumstances.

In the morning early Colonel Stuart sent his nephew, Mr. Basil Cochran, to me, to know whether I breakfasted in the Fort or at the Garden-house, that he might wait on me for my commands ; I replied, that I would do either, as was most agreeable to Colonel Stuart ; Mr. Cochran returned with an answer, that Colonel Stuart would wait upon me at the Garden-house if agreeable to me : In my way thither I stopt my chaise at Colonel Stuart's door, when he told me he had appointed Colonel Edington to meet him at the drill, and would be at the Garden-house in about an hour.

He accordingly came thither to breakfast, and acquainted me at the breakfast-table that the men were very perfect in their new discipline, and he hoped soon to be able to shew them to me.

After breakfast he told me, if I would give him leave, he would dine with me, and gave me the following letter :

" Fort St. George, 24th August 1776.

" Saturday Morning, 7 o'Clock.

" *The Right Honorable Lord Pigot, &c.*

" MY LORD,

" AS I am very imperfectly informed of the steps which have led to
" the honor conferred upon me yesterday, and not thinking myself entitled
" to a seat in Council as matters are at present circumstanced, I hope
" it will be agreeable to your Lordship to allow me this day to peruse
" the Consultations, and other papers passed in Council, on occasion of
" these unhappy differences. I doubt not but your Lordship will find
" this request reasonable, because the practice of the service gives such in-
" formation to the person commanding the forces from his seat in Council.

" I do not desire to put your Lordship to the trouble of ordering copies
" for my use, the Secretary need only point out to me what is necessary for
" my information; for I wish to act from information, so as to do my duty
" to my Honorable Employers, according to my oath of fidelity, for the
" public service, and with honor to myself.

" I trust therefore your Lordship will be pleased to agree to this request
" before I am called upon to execute any public act by authority.

" I have the honor to be most respectfully,

" My Lord,

" Your Lordship's most obedient and

" most humble Servant,

" JAMES STUART."

I told Colonel Stuart I had not the smallest objection to his and the whole
world having every information; that his not having a seat in Council re-
quired that civility the more; but that I never could condescend to any
measure

measure that looked like making a bargain with an officer: Colonel Stuart said, it rested entirely with me to satisfy him or not; it was his duty to obey. I afterwards shewed the Letter to Mr. Russell and Mr. Dalrymple, who thought it had a very designing appearance. I observed to them, it was proper to shew him the Commission of Government and standing orders, and on our going to town ordered the Secretary to get them and the Consultations of 1690 on the table in the Consultation room, expecting Colonel Stuart would come there, but he did not. When I went to the Admiralty House to dinner I found Colonel Stuart; he said he remained at home all morning in expectation of being sent for: I told him there had been a mistake, as I expected him at the Fort-house. After dinner I invited him to supper at the Company's Garden-house, which invitation he accepted, and at the same time acquainting me that he had no conveyance, requested I would take him with me in my chaise, and I appointed him to come to me at six o'clock in the Fort-house, giving him my watch to shew the hour, his own being out of order.

I that afternoon desired the Gentlemen of Council to meet me in the Fort-house, as Sir Robert Fletcher's successor was ordered to have a seat and voice in Council and Committees, when military affairs were under deliberation, in the same manner as at Bombay. I thought it would be handsome to let Colonel Stuart have an occasional seat in like manner during his acting as Commander in Chief. I wrote a note to Colonel Stuart, reciting the substance of your orders, and desiring, if he had copy of the orders to Bombay, he would bring it, as it was my wish to make every thing agreeable to him.

Some of the Council differing in sentiment from me, on the subject of Colonel Stuart's having a seat, it was agreed in my apartment that we would not have a regular consultation in form, but merely a meeting without taking places or shutting the door. Colonel Stuart had not a copy of the Orders to Bombay, but gave me a Letter, declaring that he had received assurances that he was intended to have a constant seat in Council in the same manner as Sir Robert Fletcher;

Fletcher ; this not being a matter to be at that time discussed little was said upon the subject. He was shewn the Commission of Government ; he said he wanted to see all the proceedings, that he might judge as an *honest man* and a *free agent* ; it was replied by one of the Council, that this doctrine of a military officer being a free agent, and entitled to know on what grounds orders were issued, could not be admitted ; that a military officer was bound to obey the legal orders he received from the proper authority issued in due form, and had no claim to know whether those orders were for good reasons or not ; at the same time that no information would be denied to him or to any man in the Settlement, for that the more public these matters were made the better ; and that probably, if the application had been made *verbally* instead of by *Letter*, no difficulty would have been made to shewing him the whole proceedings. He made a lame excuse for writing, saying that he thought it was best to have every thing on paper ; which admitted would have debarred his urging any thing in conversation.

Colonel Stuart said he had been misunderstood ; that he did not mean disputing the authority, but only wanted information for his private satisfaction. Mr. Russell asked, if he had accepted the command agreeable to the orders of the President and Council the preceding evening ? He replied *certainly*, for he had accepted the salutes and done all other things belonging to the office. He then said he was ready to do what we thought proper, and asked me what he was to do ; I desired him to issue the general orders of Sir Robert Fletcher's being under arrest to all the out-garrisons ; he pleaded earnestly to delay it till morning, but when the necessity of it was urged, to quiet the minds of officers who might have received the circular Letter from the Notary Public, he declared, *upon his honor*, that if we would detain the Tappies he would issue them that night ; the Tappies were accordingly ordered to be detained, and the Secretary promised to send some assistants to the Adjutant-General for the quicker dispatch of those orders.

Between seven and eight o'clock at night I went from the Fort-house with Colonel Stuart to my chaise ; between the two bridges I saw Lieu-

tenant

tenant-Colonel Edington, the Adjutant-General, come running assant the road from the south-side towards the chaise ; supposing he wanted to speak to us, I reined in the horses, and Colonel Edington, when he got near their heads waved his drawn sword and cried *Seapoys !* whereupon a party of Seapoys came from behind the trees on the other side towards the chaise, and Captain Lyfaught, with a pistol in his hand, came up from that side, and said to me, " I was his prisoner," or words to that effect ; and then Colonel Stuart seized hold of my arm, and said, " Go, Sir," or " Go out, Sir," and an orderly serjeant drove away the servant who was behind the chaise with my sword : I was then conducted to Mr. Benfield's post-chaise ; Captain Lyfaught opened the chaise door, and an orderly serjeant came out of it ; I was then told to get into it, and Captain Lyfaught came in also ; there was an orderly serjeant behind the chaise, and Captain Lyfaught kept the pistol in his hand. As we passed the Seapoy-guard at the Company's Garden-house, Captain Lyfaught said, " My Lord, you must on no account call " out," or words to that effect ; I had made no such attempt, nor did I then.

When we arrived near to the Long Tank, about three miles from town, he told me that he was carrying me to the Mount, to deliver me into charge of Major Horne, and that he acted under Colonel Stuart's orders. About this time he let down the blinds of the chaise. I expressed my fears for the safety of the people in the town, to which Captain Lyfaught replied, he believed Colonel Stuart had taken every necessary precaution.

My servants inform me Colonel Stuart returned to town in my chaise, and I understand soon after Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, &c. went thither ; they proceeded to the Consultation-Room, and Colonel Stuart proclaimed them on the parade as Governor and Council.

I beg leave to refer your Honors attention to a part of the General Letter, the draft of which I laid before the Council on the 19th August, to a

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Letter

Letter from Sir Robert Fletcher, accompanying one from Colonel Stuart concerning the half-batta; this letter of Sir Robert's was, I have no doubt, intended to cast an odium upon me for that measure, which I thought my duty to you required, and to throw out a bait to the army. The half-batta has been restored, and a gratification promised to the soldiers, as in the following General Orders issued on Sunday the 25th.

“ The President and Council being, upon the report of Colonel Stuart, “ thoroughly satisfied with the conduct of the officers and men composing “ this garrison, have empowered him to assure them they shall meet “ with a proper gratification.”

Another circumstance in Sir Robert Fletcher's Letter was his recommendation to remove all the Europeans out of garrison, by which means having, as the event of Saturday the 24th has shewn, won over the Commandants of the two battalions of Seapoys doing duty here, viz. Lieutenant-Colonel Edington and Captain Barclay, the garrison would have always remained at his mercy.

The extraordinary events of that night were so unexpected, that no one but those in the plot were prepared for them. I have recommended to all my friends, both civil and military, to be passive on the occasion, as it would be a much greater injury to your interests to have the calamities of a civil war, than the temporary distress arising from the present confusion.

I herewith transmit to your Honors the General Orders issued by Mess. Stratton, &c. in Garrison the 25th, their Circular Letter, with their Proclamation the 27th, Colonel Stuart's Orders to Major Horne by Captain Lyfaught, which are the only orders he is permitted to give me copy of; although I must take notice, that in a subsequent Order, signed George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, is the following paragraph :

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"As your last resource, in any attempt to rescue Lord Pigot, his life must answer for it, and this you will signify to him."

I remained in confinement at the Mount from Saturday night, the 24th, to Tuesday the 27th, when between eleven and twelve o'clock at night Colonel Edington arrived with fresh orders for my removal; I will leave other men to say how patiently I bore my confinement, and with what propriety I conducted myself upon Colonel Edington's refusing to shew his orders, or to make known to me whither he was to conduct me; I thought it necessary to declare, that I would not trust myself with a traitor who had made me a prisoner, and that I would resist while life remained in me. Major Horne's prudence and Colonel Edington's reflection stopped this violence proceeding further; and receiving a visit from Sir Edward Hughes in the morning, I thought it prudent to demand the protection of the King's flag, and Sir Edward Hughes has in consequence demanded a safe conduct for me to his ship; but understanding from Sir Edward that he could get no reply to this demand, I applied to the Mayor's Court for a writ of Habeas Corpus.

Mr. Russell, Mr. Dalrymple, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Lathom, have given me all the aid and assistance in their power; they are not deprived of their liberty, but it would be contrary to the orders given to the officer in whose custody I am were they to sign this Letter. I am,

Honorable,

Your most faithful humble Servant,

St. Thomas's Mount, near Fort St.

George, 3d September 1776.

(Signed) PIGOT.

Extracts

Extracts of Lord Pigot's Letter to the Honorable the Court of
Directors per Grenville, dated 26th Sept. 1776.

Par. 1. Enclosed are copies of the draft of a General Letter I laid before the Council, to be sent to England on the Grenville, and of the Letter I wrote your Honours via Bombay the 3d of this Month; together with such other papers as I think will explain the situation of your affairs here.

2. Perhaps I may have been less apprehensive of the Nabob's opposing what I recommended to be for your interest than I ought; yet I am still convinced that the Company had nothing to fear from him, if men in high office had been faithful to their trusts. My rule has ever been, to conduct myself towards the Nabob in the manner most acceptable to him, consistently with your interest; but that your business must be done. He has not only been encouraged by Members of the Council here, but he has been flattered by the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, in ideas of independency very contrary to the tenour of your instructions: this is a matter which requires your serious attention.

3. I think it necessary to remark to your Honors, that I have applied through Major Horne for copies of all the proceedings of the present Administration, that may any ways relate to me or my measures, and also for their Letters to your Honors, but they have not sent them.

4. Major Horne on the 17th instant was ordered to communicate to me a copy of a Letter from Mr. Benfield to Messieurs Stratton, &c. dated the 8th, with their answer dated the 17th. Mr. Benfield says he has arrived at the knowledge " of certain transactions of mine, such as obtaining very " large sums of money, &c. from Indian Princes, which constitute me " guilty of infringement of the late act of Parliament; and declares his " resolution to commence a prosecution against me, for which he shall have " occasion to apply to the Board, to obtain certain evidences residing " within

"within the bounds of Tanjore, or in places belonging to the Nabob of the Carnatic." I shall leave to the issue of the prosecution the proof of the malevolence of this charge: I must however take notice, that although this gentleman has been industrious for many months past in propagating his intentions, he has reserved to the eve of the dispatch the bringing forth his accusations, that they may go home unrefuted; but I trust you have that confidence in me, as to be persuaded that my conduct has been strictly honorable; and that you will believe me when I assure you I have received no sum of money; and the only presents of any considerable value, are:

From the Nabob soon after my arrival,
 A set of breakfast gold plate,
 A coach and a pair of mares,
 A saddle horse,
 Three chaise horses,
 Two cows and a bull.

From a northern Rajah's Vackeel,
 An elephant, for which I gave an horse in return.

5. In my Letter of 3d Sept. I acquainted you, that I had applied to the Mayor's Court for a writ of Habeas Corpus, but without success; I cannot however avoid transmitting to you the dissent of Mr. George Smith, one of the Aldermen; and as this is not the only instance he has given me of his zeal for the Company's interest, I beg leave to recommend him to you as a gentleman well meriting your favour.

6. Permit me to recommend to you the son of Mr. Thomas Powney, a youth now in England, and to hope that the long and faithful services of his uncle Mr. Henry Powney may induce you to appoint him a Writer upon this Establishment.

7. (Concerning Mr. Randall.)

8. (Concerning Captain Wood, Town-Major, who goes home with his Lordship's dispatches per Grenville, &c.)

9. (About the Swallow going to Suez, and having desired Mr. D. to proceed that way to England.) I am,

Honorable,

Your faithful humble servant,

St. Thomas's Mount,
26th Sept. 1776.

(Signed) PIGOT.

From Lord Pigot, dated 9th October 1776; received over-land the 7th of April 1777.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies.

Honorable,

I WROTE a short Letter by l'Etoile, a French frigate, under date the 6th instant, to enclose duplicate of the papers transmitted to your Honors by the Grenville, and I then acquainted you, that private Letters from Bengal mentioned that your Governor-General and Council had received information of what has lately passed here; I have since then received a Letter from them, a copy of which I have the honor to enclose to you.

In the Letter I addressed to you by the Grenville I informed you, that Mr. Russell and Mr. Stone had joined me in a request to Mr. Dalrymple, that he would proceed to Suez in his Majesty's sloop the Swallow, and from thence to England, that your Honors might have the most perfect and earliest account of the situation of your affairs here. That gentleman will have the honor to deliver you this.

The 30th September I addressed a Letter to Sir Edward Hughes upon the subject of the Criminal Courts, and the 7th instant I wrote another relating to Sir Robert Fletcher ; both these are in this packet for your information, together with the Consultations the 23d August.

I am,

Honorable,

Your faithful humble Servant,

St. Thomas's Mount,
9th October 1776.

(Signed) PIGOT.

Copy of Letter from Bengal.

To the Right Honorable George Lord Pigot.

My Lord,

WE have been honored with your Letter from the Mount, dated 29th August, by the Triton. We had previously received by the Shrewsbury a Letter, dated the 23d, from the Majority of the Council, which impressed us with the deepest concern for the unhappy excesses to which the differences in your Council had then proceeded ; and although the terms of their Letter, and of the Protest contained in it, gave us reason to expect the most alarming consequences, yet we confess the account of your confinement filled us with equal anxiety and surprize.

Having maturely weighed the subject of the respective advices before us, our duty obliges us, however reluctantly, to take a part in these unhappy contentions, and we wish it were possible for us to reconcile it to the high esteem which we bear for your Lordship's character, and the extensive services you have formerly rendered to the Company ; but the occasion is too urgent and critical to admit of suspense and indecision. We therefore deem it incumbent on us to declare, that the rights and powers of the Governor and Council of any of the Company's Presidencies are vested by their

their original constitution in the Majority of the Board; that the violence committed by your Lordship, in excluding two of the Members of the Council of Fort St. George from their places, was a violation of that constitution; that the measures taken by the Majority to recover the actual Government, which of right is vested in them, arose from the necessity of the case, and that we shall acknowledge and support the title and authority which they consequently possess: in doing this it is sufficient for us to know that we are supporting the legal and constitutional Government of the Company, though we are not yet perfectly informed of all the train of facts which have brought the Government of Madras into the present situation.

To remove every possibility of a doubt, which your Lordship may entertain, that the whole powers of the Government exist in a Majority of the Members of the Council, we think it proper to transmit you an extract of a General Letter, which we have lately received from the Honorable the Court of Directors by the Lionses, wherein you will find their sentiments very clearly expressed.

We should have been happy to have had it in our power, by acting as mediators, to effect a reconciliation between you and the other Members of the Council; and we should have preferred this method, had we not feared that your differences had gone too far to admit of it, and that a want of success in promoting that desirable end might have been attended with consequences more fatal than any which can result from our present decided resolution.

We have thought it proper to acquaint Sir Edward Hughes with the part which we have resolved to take on this occasion, that he may act consistently therewith, in case the situation of the Company's affairs should
be

be such as to make it requisite for him to take an active part in the decisions of your government, which we earnestly hope will never happen. We are,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servants,

Fort William,
10th September 1776.

(Signed)

WARREN HASTINGS,
J. CLAVERING,
RICHARD BARWELL,
P. FRANCIS.

Copy of a letter from Bengal.

*To Commodore Sir Edward Hughes commanding His Majesty's Squadron
in India.*

S I R,

WE observe with the deepest concern, that the differences which lately subsisted between Lord Pigot and a part of the Council at Fort St. George against the Majority of that Council, have been carried to such lengths, that the latter had been compelled to assume the government of that Presidency, and to issue orders for his Lordship's confinement.

Our duty compelling us, under these circumstances, to take a decisive part in these divisions, we think it necessary to acknowledge and support the Majority of the Members of the Council, in whom the rights and powers of the Government, according to the original constitution of all the Company's Presidencies do really exist, for which we have the most recent, as well as the most incontrovertible authority in the Company's orders just received by the Triton; for your satisfaction on this subject we have judged it proper to send you a transcript of these orders, and to advise you of the resolution which we have taken on the present occasion, to which they so

L pointedly

pointedly apply, requesting that you will unite with us in affording your assistance and support to the actual Government of Madras, if any change of circumstance should render it necessary for them to desire it.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servants,

Fort William,
10th September 1776.

(Signed) WARREN HASTINGS,
J. CLAVERING,
RICHARD BARWELL,
P. FRANCIS.

N.B. Lord Pigot, on the 22d August, the day on which Messrs. Stratton and Brooke were suspended, observed to the Council that his own experience in 40 years service, and the ancient Records of the Company for 100 years, without deviation, confirmed his position, that the President's concurrence was necessary to make an act of Government, which was the government of *President and Council*; and assured them, if they would admit this claim of his to a negative *till the pleasure* of the Court of Directors should be known, he would never put that negative (except on extraordinary occasions) where the interest of the Company was essentially at stake. Nothing, therefore, can be more unjust than to judge of the propriety of his Lordship's conduct, by referring to a paragraph which he had not seen in a Letter of the Court of Directors to Bengal expressing their sentiments; at the same time it must be remarked, the *original Constitution* can only be determined by *ancient Records*, which do not afford one order or one instance to shew that the *original* constitution was such as they declare.

Draught

Draught of General Letter intended per Grenville, laid before the Board the 19th of August 1776, referred to in Lord Pigot's letter of the 3d of September 1776, received in Mr. Dalrymple's packet the 7th of April 1777.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England, trading to the East Indies.

Honorable,

ON the 25th March the President proposed, with the approbation of the Board, to proceed himself to Tanjore to carry your orders into effect, by placing the Rajah in the full possession and management of the country, judging from a letter received from the Nabob the 22d, that he would not give his consent to our carrying them into execution.

Conf.
25th March.

22.

The safety of Tanjore, and the security of the Rajah and his family appearing to make it necessary, not only that an English garrison should be in the fort, but that the country also be protected by the Company's troops; "It was resolved therefore to send another Battalion of Seapoys to the southward, the better to enable the Rajah of Tanjore to collect in his Revenues, if this measure proved agreeable to him."

25.

The safety of the Carnatic depends upon a well disciplined force, regularly paid, being kept up; the particular safety and quiet of every individual seems to require that no other force should be kept up; and these considerations induced the Board to wish, that the Rajah of Tanjore might join them in their endeavours to place the country in this situation.

The President then moved the following question :

" Whether it is proper and necessary for him to go to Tanjore for these reasons set forth in his Minute ? "

Agreed unanimously in the affirmative.

The President then moved, that " He might take with him to Tanjore
" whatever servants of the Company he chose, either civil or military."

To this Mr. Mackay and Mr. Jourdan dissented; Sir Robert Fletcher
excepted to Members of the Council; the other Members affirmed the
Motion.

The Commission of Government was then read, and it was thereupon
resolved, " That in virtue of that Commission of Government, the Go-
" vernor holds the *same authority*, when *present* in any Fort, Factory, or
" Settlement under this Presidency, that he does when present in Fort
" St. George."

Mr. Mackay, Mr. Jourdan, and Sir Robert Fletcher dissented.

It was then resolved (*nem. con.*) " That such a guard as the Governor
" thinks necessary shall attend him."

Sir Robert Fletcher then moved, " That at least *two* Members of the
" Council be *joined* with the President in a deputation."

This was carried in the negative 7 to 4. For the arguments on both sides
of the question in these several matters where there were differences of
opinion, we beg leave to refer your Honors to the Minutes of the above-
named Members, and to Mr. Dalrymple's Remarks on those Minutes.

Conf.
29th March.

On 29th March the President informed the Board in pursuance of their
resolution, empowering him to take with him to Tanjore such servants as he
thought proper, he meant to take Mr. Dalrymple, Mr. Jourdan, Mr.
Chambers as Interpreter, and Captain Wood.

The President and these gentlemen set out the 30th March, and re-
turned the 5th May.

On

On the 13th May the President addressed the Board on the subject of 13th May.
his expedition in the manner following :

“ Having executed the Commission which you did me the honor to
“ entrust to me, I now lay before you a Diary, with the Letters and other
“ Papers which I have thought it necessary to take notice of, and which
“ have not already been laid before you.

“ The sentiments expressed in the General Letter to the Court of
“ Directors per Ankerwyke, with the unanimous concurrence of the
“ Board at that time, as well as in Consultation the 25th March last, so
“ clearly declare the expediency, not to say necessity, of having the whole
“ military force in the Carnatic under the Company, and paid by them,
“ that it gave me much satisfaction to find the Rajah of Tanjore very
“ heartily concurred in the *wish* of the Board (Conf. 25th March) that the
“ Rajah might join them in their endeavours to place the Carnatic in such a
“ situation, that no other force should be kept up but a *well disciplined*
“ *force* regularly paid, and being sensible of the advantage of having his
“ country thus protected by the Company, he requested their assistance
“ to that effect, and offered to make an assignment of 400,000 Pa-
“ godas per annum for that purpose ; to be paid in—

“ November	20,000
“ December	40,000
“ January	40,000
“ February	100,000
“ March	100,000
“ April	100,000
—————400,000	

“ From April to October the country yields but little, that being the
“ time for cultivation and repairs of Tanks, &c. The sum here stipulated
“ will afford not only a sufficiency for defraying the troops necessary for
M “ the

“ the protection of the Tanjore country, but will also leave a balance,
 “ I hope, adequate to our military expenses not paid by the Nabob ; and
 “ I have the Rajah’s assurances that this sum is considerably less than what
 “ his military force usually cost him ; so that under this head our wishes
 “ are completed.”

“ The conduct of the Nabob put it out of my power to take any mea-
 “ sures to persuade the Rajah to unite in promoting the other part of our
 “ plan, concerning the troops at present in his Highness’s service ; indeed
 “ the Tanjore country is not in a condition to be burthened with any extra-
 “ ordinary charge at this time.

“ Having settled the most essential matters with the Rajah, I thought
 “ it most proper, before my departure, to place the military where they
 “ would be best able to answer the purposes intended, and where the
 “ Gentoos would be the least interrupted in their customs and ceremonies,
 “ and in that situation which would bear the least appearance of the Rajah
 “ being under constraint, so that he might be able to govern his subjects
 “ with the fullest authority. The upper Fort was very happily situated for
 “ these purposes : Major Stevens the Engineer is of opinion it may be
 “ converted into a Citadel at an easy expense ; a small garrison will
 “ defend it, having a most excellent wet ditch and no out-works, and it
 “ will command the larger fortified town very effectually. This measure
 “ gave the Rajah the greatest satisfaction, as it separated the troops from
 “ his people ; and the houses in this Fort being nearly destroyed, the few
 “ inhabitants remaining had the Rajah’s orders to remove, that the Eng-
 “ lish troops might be the better accommodated. The conveniences being
 “ too few for the whole force then there, I ordered the Hospital to be
 “ removed to Vellum, and all the Europeans back to Trichinopoly,
 “ except three companies with their officers complete, and one non-com-
 “ missioned officer, and twelve artillery-men ; no time was to be lost
 “ in doing this, or I should have communicated it to you before it

“ was carried into execution. Major Stevens will, I think, have the plan
 “ of this Fort in readiness to lay before you in a very few days ; I indeed
 “ desired him to consider it well. At present all the expense the Company
 “ is put to is in the charge of some Coolies to level the mud walls of the
 “ late inhabitants houses.

“ The Revenues collected from the Tanjore country, during the time it
 “ has been in the hands of the Nabob, are, I am informed, as follows :

	Chuckrams.
“ 1774	2,900,000
“ 1775	5,000,000
“ 1776	1,850,000
	<hr/>
Total	9,750,000

“ Out of this sum is to be deducted the charge of collection, repairs of
 “ Tanks, &c. the amount whereof in the last year was about 600,000
 “ Chuckrams, supposing this as a medium ; the amount in three years will
 “ be 1,800,000 ; deducted from 9,750,000 will leave 7,950,000 ; which
 “ will be nearly the amount of what the Nabob has received from the Tan-
 “ jore revenues clear of all charges and expenses whatever ; an immense
 “ sum—little less than 4,000,000 Pagodas. The revenues of this year will
 “ fall greatly short of the usual amount, occasioned by the distracted state
 “ of the country as represented in the following memorandum, which was
 “ annexed to the accounts delivered to me by the Dobbeer, who informed
 “ me that the balance for this year, in grain and money, amounts only to
 “ 550,000 Chuckrams.

“ Though the above sum of 550,000 Chuckrams occurs as a remainder
 “ due from the inhabitants on a general statement of the revenue ac-
 “ counts, yet it cannot be considered as a balance which can ever be col-
 “ lected ; for the month of April is near at an end, and yet the grain from
 “ various impediments has not been fully reaped, the consequence of which
 “ has been, that a quantity of rain having fallen, the water stands two
 “ hands

" hands deep in the Paddy fields, and much grain is damaged; no judg-
 " ment therefore can be formed of the produce till it is threshed and
 " measured. Now the established custom of the Tanjore country has hither-
 " to been, to gather in the harvest and complete the collections within the
 " month of March; but Tunkaws and Towjees having been made out upon
 " the country this year to the amount of sixty Lacks of Chuckrams, the
 " inhabitants took the alarm, as conceiving the whole weight of this calamity
 " would fall upon them. But this was not their only subject of apprehen-
 " sion, for they had received their advances of grain for seed and other pur-
 " poses of the Sircar, in the beginning of the year, at the rate of seven gold
 " Fanams per Cullum, and now, according to the new assessment, they were
 " to account for it with the Sircar again at the rate of only of two-one
 " half gold Fanams per Cullum. They were now hard pressed too for the
 " payment of their balances of last year, which were calculated not from
 " the produce, but from the assessment of the lands, as farmed out to them
 " by the Sircar. The Ameens also having rated the lands above their real
 " value, were continually forcing the people, by imprisonment and other
 " acts of violence, to give them notes for the sums computed by them (the
 " Ameens) to be due, as though they had originally been farmed out to
 " them at the rates now imposed; during which transactions they pro-
 " hibited the cutting of the grain. Having thus procured these notes of
 " part of the inhabitants, and resolving, that if the Rajah should be restored
 " he should have no balance to collect, they delivered them over to the
 " Tunkawdars, the regiments, &c. which increased their sufferings. Such
 " were the circumstances which alarmed the inhabitants, and made them
 " elope to Negapatam and the confines of the sea-port towns, and thus the
 " harvest was delayed till the month of March was over. But Nizaumud
 " Deen Ahmed Khan applied himself to the appeasing the inhabitants, and
 " dispatched Cowls with the Cutcherry seal affixed into all the Soubahs,
 " assuring them that the notes which the Ameens had taken from them by
 " violence should be returned to them; that the lands should no longer be
 " rented to them as farms, but managed as Sircar lands; that their advances
 " of grain, and the last year's balances, should be accounted for in the same
 " manner as this year's revenue; and finally, that they should suffer no
 " longer

“ longer from the Tunkawdars and Towjeedars. By this means he recalled the
 “ people, returned them their notes, and set the lands on the proper foot-
 “ ing. But so great a delay in gathering the harvest having already taken
 “ place, and a great deal of rain having also fallen in that interim, the in-
 “ habitants have of necessity suffered a considerable loss; and on this account
 “ it is that the above balance cannot be made good.”

It was thereupon in Council, “ Resolved, That the request of the Rajah,
 “ not only to garrison the fort, but to protect the country of Tanjore by the
 “ Company’s troops, in consideration of his paying Pagodas 400,000
 “ per annum, be complied with.” Conf. 13th
May.

Sir Robert Fletcher being indisposed then retired, and the Board “ ap-
 “ proved of the President’s proceedings on his Commission to Tanjore.”

Mr. Mackay excepting only the seizing the Dobbeer, and the flogging
 Comera Dubash on the public parade.

Mr. Jourdan, Mr. Palmer, and Mr. Stratton, excepting only the seizure
 of the Dobbeer.

For a particular account of this transaction, which these Gentlemen are
 pleased to call *seizing the Dobbeer*, we beg leave to refer your Honors to our
 Letter to Bengal 13th June. Letter to Ben-
gal 13th June.

We shall beg leave to refer your Honors to our Consultations for the various
 Letters from Mr. Benfield; but on the 29th of May a Letter having been
 received from him, complaining against your President, “ In causing grain,
 “ which had been deposited with him (Mr. Benfield) to be seized by the
 “ Company’s Seapoys, and in depriving him of the means further to collect
 “ the revenues,” the President desired the Resolution of Council 25th
 March might be read, as well as the Orders given, whilst he was at Tanjore,
 to the officer commanding the battalion of Seapoys, and the form of an order
 N “ from 29th May.

from him to such officer as he should send on detachment ; and he thereupon desired the opinion of the Board as to the propriety of those Orders with respect to the Resolutions of Council 25th March, and the powers vested in him by the Board to carry the Orders of the Company into execution ; upon which it was " Resolved, That the Orders given by the President were conformable thereto."

Sir Robert Fletcher objected to the form, alledging that the Orders, instead of going to Captain M'Kenzie immediately, should have passed through Lieutenant-Colonel Harper. Every other Member concurred in one opinion.

29th May.

It was then Resolved, To furnish Mr. Benfield with Copy of the Order given by the President to Captain M'Kenzie, and the form of the Order to his officers on detachment ; and to inform him, if his people could point out any officer or Seapoy who has acted improperly, and he will represent the particulars of such behaviour to the Board, the necessary enquiry shall be made into their conduct : " but Mr. Benfield has not given in any such charge.

3d June.

1st July.

3d June.

The President then moved, " That the Rajah of Tanjore being put " in the full possession and management of his country by the Company's " express orders, it is the opinion of the Board, that it is not in their " power to comply with Mr. Benfield's requests in any respect, those claims " on individuals, which bear the appearance of having no connexion with " Government, not being sufficiently explained to enable the Board to form " an opinion thereon, and the assignments of the Nabob not being ad- " missible ; " which was carried in the affirmative six to five. The President in his vote having observed, that Mr. Benfield had broke through the standing Orders of the Company in many instances, by his interference with the country government, several Members gave in Minutes on this occasion, to which, and to Mr. Dalrymple's remarks thereon, we beg leave to refer your Honors.

On 3d June Mr. Brooke gave in a Minute, requesting that the above Resolution might be re-considered. 3d June.

On the 6th the Board assembled to re-consider the Resolution of the 29th May, but Mr. Dalrymple representing that he had not been able to discuss perfectly the contents of the several dissents, it was agreed by all, but Sir Robert Fletcher, to postpone it until the 10th. Conf. 6th June.

On the 10th Mr. Dalrymple delivered in his Minute, giving a general summary of the matter and extracts from your Orders, to which we beg leave to refer your Honors, to Sir Robert Fletcher's Remarks on it, and to Mr. Dalrymple's Reply, also to the Minute of the Majority, and to Mr. Dalrymple's Observations on that Minute, and also to Mr. Floyer's Minute. 10th June.
24th June.
8th July.
17th June.
1st July.
14th June.

Mr. Floyer not being sufficiently informed on the subject, the re-consideration of the Resolution of 29th May was postponed to the 13th June. 13th June.
On that day,

The President moved, " That the Resolution of Council of 29th ultimo do stand confirmed," which was carried in the negative seven to five.

Mr. Dalrymple then observed to the Board, that Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Mackay having declared they would give an answer to his Minute of 10th June, it was impossible for him with propriety to give any further opinion till he has seen their answers.

Mr. Mackay acquainted the Board he had some questions to move.

On the 14th June the President moved, " That all the claims of Mr. Benfield are private and not public concerns." 14th June.

Mr.

Mr. Mackay objected to the propriety of the President's Motion, alleging that the meeting this morning was to take some Motions he had to make into consideration, which he thought ought to be considered before the Resolution moved by the President was put to the vote.

The President having explained what he thinks the custom of the service, that the business introduced by him should be *first* considered, desired the sentiments of the Board, "whether the resolution proposed by him, or the Motions intended by Mr. Mackay, should be first taken into consideration?"

Which was carried for Mr. Mackay's Motion being first put, 7 to 5; whereupon Mr. Mackay moved,

1st. "That it is the opinion of the Board, that the Nabob had a right to the Government share of the crop in the Tanjore country, the produce of grain sown during the time it was in his possession, and that any mortgages he may have given on the same are good."

The President then observed, that the Motion introduced by Mr. Mackay being entirely relative to the supposed rights of the Nabob, of which he did not think this Board were competent judges, he was of opinion that Mr. Mackay's question could not with any propriety be put, as it might tend to the most fatal consequences; and therefore moved, "That it might not be put." It was observed it must tend to raise the apprehensions and alienate the mind of the Rajah, who is at present well disposed to the Company, must keep up the animosity between the Nabob and the Rajah, give great offence to the Marattas, who may perhaps be induced to take a part in this dispute, and involve the Company's affairs on this coast in the greatest distress, without any *public* motive whatever for running those risks, as the Rajah has not only readily complied with every requisition of the Company, but has requested the Company to take the entire protection

protection of the Country. Other objections were made, but in vain. The Majority of 7 to 5 carried this against the President, and the same Majority carried Mr. Mackay's Motion in the affirmative.

2. "Mr. Mackay then moved, That a Letter be written to the Rajah of Tanjore, to inform him of the above Resolution of the Board, and to recommend to him to give Mr. Benfield all reasonable assistance in recovering such debts as appear to be justly due to him from the inhabitants, as well as to restore to him the grain of last year, which was in the possession of his people, and said to be forcibly taken from them." 14th June.

It was urged that this Motion was improper to be put to the vote at that time, because the President's Motion not having been put, it was not determined whether Mr. Benfield's claims are private or public concerns, nor whether Mr. Benfield's concerns are consistent with the Company's orders or not; nor indeed are the claims sufficiently explained, nor had Mr. Benfield given in any charge in consequence of the Board's information to him, that no Officer of the Company had any authority to seize the property of individuals; and till then, the Board cannot know whether the grain said to be seized, was seized by the Rajah's Officers or by the Company's, as Mr. Benfield had alledged.

The President therefore proposed, that instead of this Letter to the Rajah, a Letter should be written to the Nabob, to inform him of the resolution of the Board on Mr. Mackay's first question, and to recommend to him to send the several Amuldars and Officers with their accounts into the Tanjore country, that the Dobbeer might be enabled to lay before us a true state of the Nabob's rights to the Government share of the crop in the Tanjore country; the produce of grain sown during the time it was in his possession, that we might form an opinion how far the mortgages or orders he may have given are good.

O

The

The Majority 7 to 5 carried this also against the President, and the same Majority carried Mr. Mackay's second Motion.

" Mr. Mackay then moved, That it be further recommended to the
 " Rajah, to account with Mr. Benfield for the Government share of the
 " grain in the districts assigned to him by the Nabob, and said to be forcibly
 " taken from his people."

This Motion was also carried by the same Majority, 7 to 5.

Your President declared against the Motion, because diametrically opposite to the orders that have been received from the Company by the Grenville, which brought their commands for restoring the Rajah, and who therein declare, that they will severely punish every military Officer, or Company's Servant, who shall in any respect interfere in the affairs of the Rajah's Government ; because he saw clearly that this Resolution of the Council will authorize Mr. Benfield to send Comrah the Dubash to transact his affairs with the Rajah of Tanjore, who had the insolence to propose to the Rajah the renting of his whole country, and to declare to him that he was supported by seven Members of Council ; and who further told the Rajah, that Lord Pigot would recommend an English garrison to be placed in his fort, which he by all means dissuaded him from admitting ; and moreover, because this Comrah told the Rajah, that Lord Pigot would probably advise him to depend on the Company for the protection of his country, which he was by no means to comply with, but on the contrary to reply, that he would defend his country in the same manner as his father, and that he did not want such assistance.

After all Mr. Mackay's Motions had been carried in the affirmative,—the Motion first proposed by the President was put, viz. " That all the claims of Mr. Benfield were private and not public concerns."—The opinions of

the seven Members on this Motion are so ambiguous, that we must beg leave to refer your Honors to the opinions themselves.

The President then acquainted the Board, that he intended to have followed the above Motion with another, viz. "That it appears to this Board, " that Mr. Benfield's transactions with the Country Government are contrary " to the exprefs orders of the Company, and that any interference therein " may raise apprehensions in the Rajah of Tanjore, and tend to involve " the Company's affairs on this coast ; for which reason it is resolved, that " this matter be referred to the Honorable the Court of Directors." But by setting aside his Motion, this mode of settling the business, which must at last be pursued in reality, was thrown out, and has been productive of infinite inconveniences and dispute.

On 25th June, taking under consideration a complaint of the Nabob, that the Company's Seapoys, with the Rajah of Tanjore's people, had seized districts not appertaining to the Tanjore country, but wholly to the Great and Little Marawar; these complaints were understood to relate to Hannamantagoody; and on reference to the Nabob's instructions to Mr. Dupre in June 1762, to Mr. Dupre's reply, and to the Rajah's representations 25th March 1771, it appears, that Hannamantagoody was actually in possession of the Rajah at the conclusion of the treaty in 1762, and consequently, according to your orders by the Grenville, that it should be restored to the Rajah; upon which it was resolved, that a Letter be written to the Nabob, telling him, that, agreeable to his desire, the records had been consulted with respect to Hannamantagoody, and that it was found, by the Nabob's own instructions to Mr. Dupre, to have been in possession of the Rajah in 1762, and therefore, in pursuance to your Honors commands, it appeared to us that it ought to be restored to the Rajah, and we hoped it would appear so to him.

Conf.
25th June
1776.

In

In the same Letter the Nabob was informed of the Resolution on Mr. Mackay's first Motion the 14th June, on which his Highness was best judge what information on this matter was necessary.

The Majority of seven desired on occasion of this Letter that it might be minuted, that " they approved thereof only so far as it corresponds with the " sentiments expressed by them respectively upon these subjects on the records."

Conf.
9th July.

On 9th July the Majority gave in a Minute, desiring Mr. De Souza and Mr. Benfield might be applied to for what information they could give about taking away the accounts from the Tanjore country.

On the 12th they severally delivered in Letters, saying that all the Maratta and Persian accounts had been carried away, but that the Malabar accounts were left in the villages.

On 23d July your President wrote to the Nabob, in reply to a complaint that some of his servants were still in confinement under the authority of the Rajah, and the Company's people in the Tanjore country; requesting to know the names of those servants, and of the places where they are confined, that he might make the necessary enquiry, and write to the Rajah to have them released, if unjustly kept in that situation.

He reminded his Highness, that in the Letter of 25th June he expressed a desire to learn from his Highness such information as he might deem necessary to give concerning the orders and accounts of the Tanjore Country.

And the President further took notice, that a ship of the Company's bound to England was expected daily, and that it would be highly satisfactory to your Honors to be informed by that conveyance, that the Rajah had been

been put in possession of Hannamantagoody and Arnee by his Highness, and that he has been restored, conformably to your commands, to the full and entire possession of his country as he held it in 1762.

But the Nabob has made no reply on these heads.

On 10th August a Letter was written to the Nabob, acquainting him of the damage done to the Tanjore and Trichinopoly countries by the freshes, and representing the necessity, to both countries, for the speedy repair of the banks of the river; and requesting that orders might be sent to suffer earth near the village of Kellycott to be taken, and that every assistance be given by the people in the village of Sandamangalum in procuring reeds, woods, &c. the Rajah paying for the same.

On 3d June a Letter was received from Commodore Sir Edward Hughes, enclosing a Letter to him from the Nabob, complaining generally of your President; and particularly that he had threatened to put a guard upon his person: to which a Letter was written in answer; your President assuring us, "that the Nabob had totally misunderstood him; that he never had a thought of placing any guard over him, although he feared, and expressed those fears to the Nabob, that the encouragement his Highness gave to European visitors, and the impediment to public business, arising from the intrigues carried on by them at his Durbar, would lay him under a necessity to place a guard to bring such persons to him, that he might be acquainted with the nature of their business."

Conf.
3d June.

Your President further declared, "that no wanton indignity to his Highness ever was intended, or ever will be committed by him, although his ears can never be shut to the complaints of the distressed."

On 6th June Sir Edward Hughes wrote a Letter, that he had sent copy of the Letter to the Nabob, which he doubted not would produce the desired effect.

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The

6th June.

The President then observed, that there was in the Letter from the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes an accusation of " his having ordered people " in the middle of the night to enter the Nabob's garden, pretending that " he had information of the Nabob's having ordered some people to be ill- " treated there." The President added, that he thought most of the Members of the Council had been acquainted with the case alluded to, and although he had wished for the credit of the Nabob to have taken no public notice thereof, yet for his own vindication it appeared necessary to mention it.

Conf.
6th June.

On 10th May he received the following Report from the Head Hircar.

" After the Nabob took the Marawar's country, the Sircar's people " plundered every thing belonging to the said Marawar's managers ; among " the rest one Villayan Chirvacar's house was plundered, his daughter re- " mained in the said country very poor.

" One Veerapilla, an enemy to her, told the Nabob, That she was worth " money; upon which he ordered her to be brought under guard to him; " and accordingly she and two more women and about 13 men were brought " to Chepauk, in the Company's bounds, a few days ago; but upon exa- " mining the woman there was no money to be got from her, as was ex- " pected. On this the said enemy told the Nabob, that if he would send her " back along with him to the said country, he will put her to torture, " and recover the money. The woman would not go, for fear they will " murder her; but they are forcing her to go, and she declares, that if she " is forced she will kill herself. As she is now in the Company's bounds, " sent to acquaint your Lordship with the above violence, and beg you to " save her life; and as it is my duty to acquaint you with any news or vio- " lence that might be committed in the bounds, I thought fit to make this " Report to your Lordship."

The

The President was upon a visit, and at supper, when he received this information; and as the Nabob's gardens and those to the Company's house join, he ordered the Hircar to wait at the gardens till his return, and to watch if those people passed. About 11 o'clock the President, stopping at the gardens in his way to the Fort, was informed that the woman was not come away, but that some of the people were carried off towards St. Thomé; upon which the President thought proper to direct the officer of the guard to send a Havildar and some Seapoys, who overtook them at St. Thomé; and the President at the same time gave to Saib, one of the Company's waiting Peons, the written information he had received, and directed him to carry it to a house of the Nabob's where many of his servants generally are, and to desire that the woman might not be removed till he saw the Nabob in the morning.

In the morning the men and old woman were sent to the Nabob, who enquired into the matter in presence of Mr. Chambers, and then set them at liberty, and likewise the daughter of the Duan; and got a girl of the Marawa family, who Veeriapermall had taken and used as his concubine, to be restored, and gave orders for another at Trichinopoly likewise to be restored.

On 17th June the President moved the following Resolution: "It is the opinion of this Board, that the Letter from the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes was written purposely to create animosity between the Members of this Government."

Conf.
17th June

He observed, that he would not willingly think so unfavourably of the Nabob, as to believe him capable of representing fears when he had none; but when the President sees the Nabob's name signed to an English Letter, of which he cannot read one word, when he knows the miscreants that he has in his Councils, he should not have been surprized to have found that Letter accuse him of any faults. The President observed also, that the Nabob's

Nabob's Letter to Sir Edward Hughes was not sent until a week after the visit he had the honor to make his Highness, and in the intervening time that he had received a visit from the two eldest Sons, with a message of compliments from their Father.

The question was carried in the affirmative by the President's casting vote.

The President then gave in the following Minute:

" After such a Letter as that written by the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes, and after the sentiments of the President expressed in the Reply to Sir Edward Hughes, as well as what passed in debate upon the subject, the President does hope the impropriety, nay indecency, of visiting the Nabob under such circumstances must strike every Member of Council.

" The President recommends, that, agreeable to the Company's standing orders, no Member of the Council do henceforth visit or correspond by writing or by message with the Nabob or either of his Sons.

" The President is more particularly induced to recommend this, as he is informed that the Nabob has been made acquainted with the late proceedings of this Board; and he thinks it very improper any Member of the Council should be liable to the slightest suspicion of divulging to the Nabob the proceedings of Government."

6th November 1769.
3d Apr. 1775.
General Letter from Bengal 7th December 1775.
17th June 1776.

This question was carried in the affirmative also by the President's casting vote. For the various opinions of the Members we beg leave to refer you to the Minutes.

The President then represented to the Board the many difficulties that attend the constant residence of the Nabob within the Company's bounds, from the frequent acts committed, which are incompatible with our laws.

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“ Instances of murder, imprisonments, thefts, tortures, and such-like
 “ offences, committed by the Nabob’s people, wherein the interference of
 “ this Government is indispensably necessary, have already happened in
 “ the short time the President has been here ; and he should ill deserve
 “ the trust reposed in him if he let informations of such a nature pass un-
 “ noticed ; and, if he is not passive, the Nabob will ever think his dig-
 “ nity hurt.

“ Another inconvenience arises from the suits in the Mayor’s Court
 “ against the Nabob’s family and attendants, which occasion applications
 “ that must lay the President under the greatest embarrassments.

“ The Nabob has not mentioned it in his Letter to Sir Edward Hughes,
 “ but the President knows he was most chagrined at the President’s
 “ having released some children stolen by a Moorman, formerly, if not at
 “ present, in the Nabob’s service, and who was stopped in the Company’s
 “ bounds, but conveyed away by the Nabob’s officers into his Highness’s
 “ country, and thereby has eluded the justice of the English laws. Of
 “ these children nineteen were taken from the Tanjore country, one from
 “ St. Thomé, and two from Cuddalore.

“ The President being desirous to avoid every occasion of giving disgust
 “ to the Nabob, and as circumstances must occur daily to increase his dis-
 “ content while he remains here, the President proposes, as the most effec-
 “ tual method to prevent these misunderstandings, “ That it be recom-
 “ to the Nabob to reside at Arcot.”

This question was carried against the President seven to five. It was said
 the Nabob’s residence here is attended with great advantages to the Com-
 pany and to the Settlement, and that such a Motion would increase the
 jealousies already subsisting ; on the other hand it was alledged, that
 Durbar politics had been almost the source of the dissensions that of late

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years

years have prevailed at this Board, and will ever be so while the Nabob resides among us. It was thought this measure, instead of increasing, would naturally put an end to all animosity between the Company's Government and the Nabob; would not only obviate all the difficulties complained of, but be extremely beneficial to his country, which is in a very miserable state.

24th June.

On the 24th June several Minutes were given in on the subjects of the former Consultations, to which we beg leave to refer your Honors.

The boasted wealth of this Settlement is almost entirely confined to the Europeans, and shews itself in dissipation and extravagance of every kind, which can never be to the Company's advantage: almost none of the natives, except such as have had the handling of the public money, are affluent: there are hardly any Black merchants of substance; and the Nabob racks the country to squander money idly away, which ought to be laid out in the improvement of the Carnatic.

This would be a source of real wealth to Madras, and in time of exigency might enable him to support his government. In the present situation, if the calamities of war are to be added to the distresses of the inhabitants, the most fatal consequences are to be dreaded.

It must be obvious, that all the difficulties which have occurred in transacting your affairs with the Nabob, not only since the arrival of the Grenville, but for some years past, have arisen from the Nabob's being infested by designing men about him, who have had an interest of their own directly contrary to your's. Whilst the Nabob resides constantly here it will be impossible to keep all Europeans from him, and he has many means of attaching men to his cause within the limitation of the law, even admitting that men should be incapable of being induced to accept offers which your Honors may satisfy yourselves from Mr. Dawson were made to him.

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It is very difficult to bring home proofs; nay circumstances may come to the knowledge of your President through channels which cannot with propriety be made known; but he thinks it proper at this time to state for your information what has come to his knowledge.

The evening your President set out for Tanjore, one of the Nabob's family, after many professions of friendship, and of a desire that your President might be convinced of the confidence he reposed in him, and how much he was persuaded that no man had the Nabob's interest so truly at heart as your President, he begged of him to believe that he had used every argument to prevail on the Nabob to comply chearfully with the orders of the Company; that the Nabob was in himself all goodness; that no man could wish more for the prosperity of the Company's affairs than the Nabob did, but at the same time confessed, that giving up the Tanjore country affected him much: "Think not, my Lord," continued he, "that the Nabob upon this occasion is governed by the advice of Mr. M^cPherson, neither believes that he pays much attention to that of Mr. Mackay; he has a voice in Council it is true, but he thinks him insignificant. The Nabob however is a man, and liable to the failings of a man; and when he is counselled and told by one in high office, whose superior interest and friends have supported him in overcoming men in power in Government heretofore, when he is told by the Commander in Chief of the army sitting on your Lordship's left hand at the Council Board, and holding honors and trusts not committed to the charge of any officer till of late, that your Lordship *dare* not carry the orders of the Company into execution without the Nabob's consent: feel for the Nabob at this time, conceiving his honor, reputation, dignity, nay his favorite object at stake, that of keeping possession of the country of Tanjore: feel for him, my Lord, and say, if with such encouragement he is not to be excused. Follow this with every mark of attention and profession of friendship the same gentleman could give, see him producing the Company's private instructions to the Commissioners, and reading the 29th, 30th, 31st, 32d, 33d, and

“ 34th paragraphs, and you will find it no longer difficult to account for the Nabob's conduct.”

Although the letter referred to had been opened at the particular request of the Commander in Chief a little time before, and carried home by him with your President's permission, yet well knowing the artful and intriguing disposition from whom this information was received, your President looked on it as a bait thrown out to amuse him, and prevent his setting out for Tanjore ; and he therefore paid so little attention to it, that he got into his Palanqueen, and proceeded on his journey, without ever having read the Letter mentioned, which, on Sir Robert Fletcher's returning it to your President, was left in his closet in the Fort-house, where it remained till his return from Tanjore, when curiosity led him to desire Mr. Stratton to read to him the paragraphs which had been referred to.

Your President will not recite the various reports he has heard since his return, but he cannot omit saying, that he was also told, before his journey to the southward, by the same person of the Nabob's family, that the Commander in Chief had encouraged the Nabob to believe that there would soon be a division in the Council, telling him Mr. Dawson, Mr. Brooke, and Mr. Russell, had all applied to go to Mazulipatam ; that your President kept these Members in expectation of the Chiefship, but that when the office was filled up, the President would certainly disoblige two of them. And your President must say, that since your Honor's nomination of Mr. Floyer has been known, he has not had the support from Mr. Brooke which he before received from him.

Conf. In Consultation the 24th June Mr. Mackay gave in the following
24th June: Minute.

“ As the Resolution on the Nabob's Letter to Sir Edward Hughes
“ was carried by the President's casting vote, though in Mr. Mackay's
“ opinion

“ opinion of one of the Members for that question Mr. Brooke appears
 “ doubtful, Mr. Mackay moves that the Resolution be now rescinded.”

Sir Robert Fletcher also begged leave to represent to the Board, “ That
 “ he has had the Records examined, and can find *no such standing* order of
 “ the *Company*, as was quoted by the President on Monday last (17th of
 “ June) and upon which he imagines *some* of the Members of the Board
 “ were induced to vote for his Lordship’s second Motion; Sir Robert
 “ Fletcher further observes, that upon considering attentively the words
 “ in which that Motion is conceived, he finds that Members of the Board
 “ may be thought by some (though innocently) to offend against the Re-
 “ solution which passed upon that Motion, merely because they do not,
 “ and he thinks cannot, shut their doors in the faces of the Nabob and
 “ his sons, when they happen, which they sometimes do, to drop in, in an
 “ evening to visit his family; and as for Sir Robert Fletcher himself, he
 “ must repeat, that there are frequent complaints made to him from the
 “ out-garrisons of disputes between the officers under his command, and
 “ the Nabob’s officers, and against some of the Company’s officers in the
 “ Nabob’s service upon points of duty. These, in consequence of a
 “ message from the Commander in Chief to the Nabob, or to one of his
 “ sons, or a message from one of them to the Commander in Chief, are,
 “ in general, amicably *settled by him*.

“ For all these reasons, Sir Robert hopes the impropriety of the Reso-
 “ lution on the President’s second Motion on Monday last, will strike
 “ every Member of the Board, and he therefore moves that that Reso-
 “ lution be rescinded.”

On the 8th July, in consequence of the Motion of Sir Robert Fletcher
 of 24th June, being desired by him to be considered, the President ob-
 served, “ That the Resolution of Council of 17th June, *that Members* of
 “ the *Board should not visit* or receive messages from the *Nabob or his*
 “ *Sons*, was grounded on the reasons which are given on his Minute pre-

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Conf.
 8th July.

“ ceding that Motion; that it is true he had, at the desire of Mr. Brooke,
 “ given his consent to the reconsideration of the Resolution of the 29th
 “ May on the Nabob and Mr. Benfield’s claims on the Tanjore country,
 “ because that private property was there concerned; but as no such
 “ matter was affected by the Resolution of the 17th June, and because
 “ the rescinding such Resolution would only increase the difficulties he
 “ has found in conducting the business of the Company with the Nabob,
 “ he now declares, that he never will give his consent to the question of
 “ Sir Robert Fletcher being put. The President at the same time ob-
 “ serves to the Board, that he is certain of acting on this occasion with
 “ perfect consistency; that during the many years he has been in the ser-
 “ vice, he has always known the business of the Board to originate with the
 “ President, who is undoubtedly the properest person to lay before them
 “ such subjects as may require their consideration; that making Resolu-
 “ tions one day, and reconsidering and rescinding the next, can be pro-
 “ ductive of no good consequence to the Company’s affairs, but on the
 “ contrary stamp the measures of Government with such an air of fickle-
 “ nefs, as must be highly detrimental to them.”

Many Members gave in Minutes on the subject, to which we beg leave to refer your Honors.

The President then declared, that he was ready to put Mr. Mackay’s Motion, as that was a matter which did not concern the Company, but himself; however Mr. Mackay declined having it put.

Conf.
9th July.

On 9th July the Majority of seven gave in a Minute against your Pre-
 sident, for first, Having *asserted a right to adjourn the Council*. Secondly,
 Having in the Civil Department *refused to put a previous question*, although
 desired by many of the Board, who had not had time to consider of the
 proposition laid before them. Thirdly, Having *refused to put a question*
regularly moved for rescinding a former Resolution of Council. And Fourthly,
 Having

Having asserted that a *Resolution of the Majority of the Board* cannot be carried into execution without *his concurrence*.

Your President thinks it proper on this occasion to observe, that he thinks the preservation of order and propriety in Government makes it necessary for the power of adjournment to be in the President, without which a faction with strong constitutions, by relieving each other, might force the President, who is obliged to remain in the chair, into whatever measures they pleased. Were your President to adjourn to evade any charge either against himself or his friends, there might be ground of complaint, not for the adjournment, but the motive of it; but in transacting the important public concerns of your Government, if the Members of the Council, instead of assisting your President with their advice, are to assume the reins and determine what is fit in their private meetings, and come to Council only to dictate to your President, it is impossible for your affairs to escape ruin. Your Government must be supported.

Your President thinks he has a right to require of every Member of the Council an opinion upon such matters as he may lay before them, and therefore, that it is improper to admit of a previous question which may deprive him of that opinion.

The forms and rules of popular assemblies are not at all applicable to a Council Board, and if they were introduced, instead of promoting business would impede it, and throw every thing into confusion. In the instance referred to, your President did not require a hasty decision; he declared his readiness to sit as long as they pleased, but was convinced the Members of the Majority merely urged delay because it was supposed Mr. Dawson would not attend another Council, and that by postponing the business your President would be deprived of that gentleman's support in a measure which appears of infinite consequence to your affairs, viz. sending Mr. Russell to Tanjore. Mr. Dawson, seeing the dilemma in which your President was reduced, in a very becoming manner declared,
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he would not turn his back on your service, and would readily attend on a future day ; and your President must do Mr. Dawson the justice to say, he ever received his ready support in the administration of your affairs.

3dly. Your President cannot avoid remarking, that when he refused to put Sir Robert Fletcher's Motion for rescinding the Resolution of Council of 17th June against Members of the Council visiting the Nabob, he took notice that it was almost the only question which he would not put, but that the Resolution was entirely conformable to your orders, to ancient usage, and necessary for good government ; that rescinding the Resolution would be a breach of your orders, and tend to involve your affairs in difficulties for no reason ; and that intercourse with the Country Government was a privilege which you had been pleased to vest in your President solely, and therefore was what the Council could not agitate with propriety. However in the Minute above referred to the Majority declare, " The Resolution of 17th June is legally, though not in the usual form " rescinded," which your President cannot admit.

Your President, from an attentive consideration of the Commission of Government, thinks his Council are appointed the better to enable him to manage your affairs ; he thinks he can do nothing without a Majority of his Council, and he thinks so great a deference is due to that Majority, as to require the President to concur with them on ordinary occasions, but not in disobedience to your commands ; on the contrary, he thinks his duty to the Company obliges him not to concur with a settled Majority, who uniformly pursue measures ruinous to your interests, and contrary to your orders.

Enclosure

*Enclosure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land the 7th of
April 1777.*

Measures worthy the attention of the Court of Directors for the re-establishment of good government and order in their Settlement at Madras.

1. IT is necessary that no room be left to doubt that a Majority of the Council cannot do an act of Government without the President.

2. The new military regulations cannot be continued without total destruction to the Company, as the Government is thereby at the mercy of the military Commander in Chief. The Governor ought to have at least as much power over the military as formerly, when the Company's affairs were conducted so much to the honor of the nation, and to their benefit.

3. All the appointments military as well as civil ought to be in the President and Council at the recommendation of the Governor.

4. It has been questioned whether the President and Council can bring the Military Commander in Chief to a Court-Martial, without calling officers from the other Presidencies to try him? and the authority of the Governor to put him in arrest, even whilst in garrison, is positively denied, notwithstanding the Company's orders are clear on this head; but it is alledged the new regulations have superseded all antecedent orders.

5. One great cause of the confusion in the Company's affairs here, is the Nabob's debt to individuals; the orders he has granted on different districts amount to more than two millions sterling (2,000,000l.) great part of this is due to Europeans for sums lent, and other money transactions, which are contrary to the express orders of the Company; but it is pretended these orders are now superseded by the Act of Parliament:

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this ought to be put an effectual stop to, and it is to be feared, before any remedy can be applied, the debt will be greatly increased; the sum above-mentioned is not the whole of the Nabob's debt, but only of what he has given orders for payment during the last year; those orders are nearly equal to the amount of his annual revenues.

6. The Company very judiciously gave orders, that all the Nabob's troops should be disbanded; it will be necessary to repeat this order, as the Governor-General and Council of Bengal say he is an independent prince, and have resolved they will support his rights, by exerting with effect the power vested in them by the Legislature. It is the more necessary these troops should be disbanded, as he has at least 150 European officers who have stole out to India; and this is a growing evil.

7. Continuing the Jaghier under the Nabob is very prejudicial to the Company's interest. It is indeed generally supposed the Nabob pays a larger Sum than the country is at present able to bear; but it can never be the Company's interest to distress the inhabitants, and, under good management, it is very capable of great improvement. If the Jaghier is taken from the Nabob, he will be induced to remove from Madras, which will be attended with many good consequences.

8. The former Regulation in the Company's service, that all intercourse with the Country Government should be confined to the President, is very necessary to be confirmed, as questions have arisen concerning the validity of that Regulation.

9. It is very injurious to the natives to permit Europeans or Christians of any denomination to be concerned in the Farms, and it will also be productive of many inconveniences to the Company as well as oppressions to the inhabitants.

10. Selling the waste land belonging to the Company is a measure calculated to serve private purposes at the Company's expense; where lands are wanted for occupancy, they ought to be granted at a small quit-rent, with a power of redemption, on paying the fair value of improvements.

Enclosure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th April 1777:

Copy of General Orders issued the 25th August 1776.

By George Stratton, Esq. President, Henry Brooke, Sir Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esqrs. of Council at Fort St. George.

THE illegal, violent, and unconstitutional conduct of Lord Pigot, late President of the Council, aided and assisted by Messrs. Russell, Dalrymple, and Stone, in breaking through the positive orders of the Company, have compelled us, for the future welfare and preservation of the affairs of the Company, to order Lord Pigot into arrest, and to suspend from the Company's service the other three Gentlemen, until the Company's pleasure shall be known; and George Stratton, Esq. being the next senior servant to Lord Pigot, is, agreeable to the orders of the Company, appointed President, and is to be obeyed as such; and all the officers and soldiers upon this establishment are hereby commanded to pay due obedience to our orders; signed by ourselves, or our Secretary, we, the Majority of the Council, being the only legal representatives of the Company.

(Signed)

GEO. STRATTON.
HENRY BROOKE,
ROBERT FLETCHER,
CHAS FLOYER,
ARCHDALE PALMER,
FRANS JOURDAN,
GEO. MACKAY.

The Government having devolved on George Stratton, Esq. the honors of second of the coast are to be paid to Henry Brooke, Esq.

Colonel Stuart is to take upon him the charge and command of the army and of this garrison during the indisposition of Sir Robert Fletcher, who will, notwithstanding his illness, continue to act as third of Council.

The President and Council being, upon the report of Colonel Stuart, thoroughly satisfied with the conduct of the officers and men composing the Garrison, have empowered him to assure them they shall meet with a *proper gratification.*

Captain Arthur Lyfaught is appointed Town-Major, and Lieutenant Hoare Fort-Adjutant, and are to be obeyed as such. Lieutenant Colonel Nixon is to join the 1st Battallion of the 1st Regiment at Vellore.

Sunday, August 25th eight o'clock. A picquet to mount immediately till further orders, consisting of 1 Captain, 2 Subalterns, 2 Serjeants, 1 Drummer, and 50 Rank and File, to be warned from those who came last off duty.

The officers to wear their fashes constantly, and the men their accoutrements, and to keep their arms as near them as possible, that they may be ready to turn out at the shortest notice. The Drummer to remain always at the Barrack Guard.

No person on picquet to go out of the garrison:

In case of an alarm, the picquet to assemble in front of the Barracks.

Enclosure

Enclosure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th April 1777.

Letter from Lord Pigot to the Governor-General and Council at Bengal,
dated St. Thomas's Mount, 15th September 1776.

*To the Honorable Warren Hastings, Esquire, Governor-General, &c. Council
of Bengal.*

Honorable Sir and Sirs,

CAPTAIN PANTON, of his Majesty's ship Swallow, having done me the honor to deliver me the Letter which you were pleased to address to me and the Council by that ship, I am become acquainted with your sentiments concerning my proceedings at Tanjore, and on my conduct with respect to the Nabob.

In the situation I am, deprived of all reference to the public records, willing to shew all due deference to your opinion, but desirous at the same time to justify my conduct to the world, and observing that private complaints and private opinions are blended with the public and authentic acts, and circumstances mentioned which never existed, I may stand excused if I desire that copies of all the Nabob's complaints may be transmitted to me.

Seeing also private references made by Sir Robert Fletcher to the opinion of Lieutenant-General Clavering, extracts of whose answers I understand have been handed about the Garrison by an orderly Serjeant (copy of one of which comes enclosed) I trust General Clavering will have no objection to lay before your Honor, &c. the correspondence that has passed on public matters between him and the Commander in Chief here,

T

that

that I may be furnished with authentic copies of such as you may see proper.

I have the honor to be,

Honorable Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servant,

St. Thomas's Mount,
15th September 1776.

(Signed) PIGOT.

Enclosure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th April 1777.

Copy of a paper said to be an extract of a Letter to Sir Robert Fletcher from General Clavering.

“ THE reasons for not extending our animadversions to such matters
“ as concern your internal government was, 1st. That we did not think
“ our jurisdiction competent to take cognizance of them unless, the Majority of the Board had required it of us; and 2dly, That we thought
“ you had power within yourselves to render the Government efficient, on
“ the President's refusing to execute any order of the Majority.”

“ We have here asserted and maintained, that the Government is
“ vested in the Majority ;” and then, speaking of Sir Robert's arrest, and not summoning him to Council during that supposed arrest, “ By the
“ same rule that the President does not summon one, he may confine the
“ number of the Council to those persons only who are his creatures and
“ dependents; but a junto thus formed, is no longer the Council appointed
“ by the Company as their representatives, and their acts are illegal.
“ He adds, that putting Sir Robert in arrest, and upon the pretence
“ alledged, was the most violent act of despotism he ever heard of.”

N. B. The charge given to the Board by the President against Sir Robert Fletcher was for disobedience of orders and infidelity to the Company ;

pany ; some of Sir Robert's friends thereupon requested, that the matter might be passed over and nothing more said of it ; this the Governor more readily assented to, as in the course of the trial it would have been necessary to have called upon the Nabob's sons, and perhaps upon the Nabob himself, as evidences. Messrs. Jourdan and Mackay went to Sir Robert, and returned to Council with him, when he signified, that he understood what had passed was to be buried in oblivion, and therefore it was very improper in him to revive the subject by mentioning it to General Clavering.

Enclosure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th April 1777.

Letter from Mr. Munro to the Court of Directors, dated Fort St. George,
21st September 1776.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies.

Honorable,

AT a period of distraction and violence, when rebellion has displayed her banner in one of your principal settlements, and usurpation has wrested the reins of Government from the hands you had intrusted them to, an humble appeal against arbitrary measures, a complaint of the most unmerited and injurious treatment towards a civil servant of this establishment, will be far from being an unnatural consequence; as those who have established themselves by deceit and military force in the administration of this Government, will have little scruple to maintain their authority by violence, and to remove every individual from places of trust, who may have the spirit to deny their power, and fortitude to preserve his fidelity unimpeached to his Honorable Employers.

On

On the revolution of this Government, I was influenced by the dictates of fidelity and duty to the Honorable Company to sign my name to a Letter (in conjunction with many of my fellow servants, who were actuated by the same principles) containing a formal protest against the authors thereof. This Letter will be sent a number in the Grenville's packet, and I must beg leave to refer your Honors thereto for the motives of my conduct; and I flatter myself, that motives adopted by so great a majority as thirty-eight of your civil servants at the Presidency, are as little liable to be tainted by error as by prejudice or interest. If a President by you elected as worthy of so high a trust, if a commission originating from yourselves, and endowing the Right Honorable Lord Pigot with a Government, from which, it expressly says, he is only removeable by thirteen or more of the Directors, can be annulled by a Majority in numbers of the residing Members of that Council, which is appointed, by the express words of the commission, to aid and assist him in the administration of his Government, and these Members (as I apprehend) legally suspended; I must confess my idea of the service has been totally wrong, and I have been with many of my fellow servants under an unhappy mistake respecting the powers and privileges by you delegated to a Governor.

Actuated by these sentiments, I could not consistently address Mr. Stratton by the title he has assumed; I could no otherways forward my monthly returns, as paymaster and storekeeper of Chingleput, than by addressing him as "one who styles himself President of the Council and Governor of Fort St. George;" as I regarded the legal President and Governor to be no other than the Right Honorable Lord Pigot. For the indecency and impropriety, as they are pleased to term it, of this address, the reigning Administration have thought fit to order me to deliver over the charge of your money and stores, and of my office, to the military officer commanding there, in this instance also deviating from the line of the service, and to suspend me without giving me any charge of a crime, and far less allowing me a reasonable time to answer thereto, or even a copy of the proceedings relative to my suspension, though applied for by me

by Letter, of which I herewith take the liberty of sending a copy. Thus treating me in the severest manner, and acting directly contrary to the tenor of what I understand to be your express orders in this respect, I leave to the decision of your Honors, whether my conduct on this occasion is chargeable with indecency or impropriety, and whether it merits the sentence which this new authority have been pleased to pass upon me. At all events I submit my case to your justice and candour for my re-instatement in your service, conscious as I am that no part of my conduct has ever been deficient in fidelity to your interest, or obedience to your commands.

I cannot avoid this favourable opportunity of returning my most sincere and grateful thanks to your Honors for my appointment to the succession of the Paymastership of Ellore, a mark of the favour of my Honorable Masters, which now affords me a flattering reflection under the injury which I at present sustain, and in the hope that your candour, and the merits of a course of thirteen years service in the different departments in which I have served, will supersede the sentence of a set of men, whom I defy in any point whatever to accuse me of disobedience or neglect of duty.

I have the honor to be with profound respect,
Honorable,

Your faithful humble servant,

Fort St. George,
21st September 1776.

R^T D^N MUNRO.

Enclosure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th April 1777.

Copy of Mr. Russell's account of what passed in the Fort the 24th August 1776.

ON Saturday the 24th instant, between eight and nine o'clock at night,
" Intelligence having been brought to the Governor's Garden-house, where
U " I then

“ I then was, that Lord Pigot had been carried off a prisoner to the
 “ Mount, I immediately hastened to the Fort, accompanied by J. M.
 “ Stone, Esq. where I found the town in confusion, and was told
 “ that Mr. Stratton and Sir Robert Fletcher, with others, had taken
 “ possession of the Council Room. On drawing near the parade, it
 “ being moon-light, I observed it was crowded with officers and others,
 “ as well Europeans as Blacks, and a number of carriages at the Fort
 “ Square Gate. Meeting soon after with the Fort-Major, Captain Wood,
 “ he informed me that those Gentlemen had declared themselves the
 “ Administration, and that he had been sent to the main-guard for en-
 “ deavouring to keep the troops to their duty. I then directed Lieutenant
 “ Perdergast, the Fort-Adjutant, who had just joined us, to go to the
 “ officer of the main-guard (Captain Adair) and tell him that it was my
 “ orders, in the absence of Lord Pigot, to have his men stand imme-
 “ diately to their arms; but observing that he (Captain Adair) hesitated, I
 “ went myself to him and repeated my orders in person, telling him that
 “ he would reflect on the consequences of a refusal, as in the absence of
 “ Lord Pigot, whose guard he commanded, I must be considered his com-
 “ manding officer; he (Captain Adair) still hesitated, and muttering
 “ something about the Commander in Chief, I asked him if he had
 “ received any contradictory orders from the Commander in Chief,
 “ and by whom they were delivered; Captain Adair replied, in
 “ a confused manner, that Colonel Stuart had *delivered him orders*;
 “ during this a crowd of officers had assembled around us, and on my in-
 “ sisting with Captain Adair that my orders should be complied with,
 “ Lieutenant-Colonel Edington, Adjutant-General, and Captain Barclay
 “ came up to me, and, with great professions of respect for my person,
 “ recommended to me as most prudent to go my house; I told them my
 “ duty called me where I was, or words to that effect; and in the mean
 “ while, whether by Captain Adair’s orders or not, I do not know, great
 “ part of the guard stood to their arms; and as I was advancing to get
 “ in front of them, Colonel Stuart came up to me seemingly much
 “ agitated, saying, you must go with me *to Council*, or *before Council*;
 “ my

“ my answer was, that I was not under his orders, but that he at that time
 “ was under mine, and that I should certainly not go where he directed, or
 “ words to that effect ; Colonel Stuart upon this seized me by the breast of
 “ my coat, calling out for *Orderlies*, at the same time Lieutenant-Colonel
 “ Edington and Captain Barclay each seized me by an arm, and these
 “ gentlemen were forcibly dragging me along, when I called to the
 “ Captain of the main-guard for assistance, but in vain ; though I
 “ did observe several of the grenadiers advance from the ranks towards us,
 “ which seemed to alarm Colonel Stuart so much that he quitted his hold
 “ of me, and run back to push them into their ranks with oaths and threats ;
 “ after effecting this, he (Colonel Stuart) returned to assist Colonel Eding-
 “ ton and Captain Barclay, by laying hold of my wrist, and calling for an
 “ orderly serjeant to push me behind ; continuing to make all the resistance
 “ in my power, I was by main force dragged by Colonel Stuart, Lieutenant-
 “ Colonel Edington, and Captain Barclay, with the assistance of the Orderly
 “ Serjeant, to the Council Room, where were sitting George Stratton, Esq.
 “ Sir Robert Fletcher, Francis Jourdan, George Mackay, Charles Floyer,
 “ Henry Brooke, and Archdale Palmer, Esquires, and Mr. Henry Norris
 “ attending ; Colonel Stuart led me in by the arm, and shutting the door,
 “ he addressed himself to the above gentlemen, saying, that I had so strong
 “ an arm that he was out of breath, and must beg time to recover it be-
 “ fore he could explain the cause of my being before them. Upon this I
 “ required to know whether I was a prisoner or not ; Sir Robert Fletcher
 “ (I think it was) answered that I was not a prisoner, and I was therefore
 “ going to retire, but upon opening the door Colonel Stuart run up to me
 “ and flapped it to : upon my representing the indecency of this behavi-
 “ our to Mr. Stratton, who seemed to be the President, the Colonel pleaded
 “ in excuse, that he wished me to be present while he related to the Council
 “ (for such he called them) what had passed. He (Colonel Stuart) then
 “ dictated, while Mr. Jourdan minuted, a declamation about my exciting
 “ mutiny, and related the circumstances of his seizing me with tolerable
 “ accuracy, [only] that he makes no mention of the violent and powerful
 “ assistance given him by Lieutenant-Colonel Edington, Captain Barclay,
 “ and

“ and the Orderly. When the Colonel had finished, Mr. Stratton asked
“ what I had to say in answer ; to which I replied, that I denied their autho-
“ rity and should say nothing, or words to that effect. Mr. Mackay and
“ Mr. Jourdan then went round to the opposite side of the table, and after
“ some conversation with Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Floyer, Sir Robert
“ proposed, before I should retire, that a Letter which would shortly be
“ sent might be read to me ; but this I objected to, declaring that I
“ would not listen to any thing at that Board, whose authority I denied.
“ Mr. Stratton however rising up, began to read a paper, supposed to be
“ the Letter in question, but stopped upon my calling to him by name
“ that I would not hear him. Sir Robert then moved, that the contents
“ should be told me, which Mr. Stratton then declared to be, that they
“ had suspended me the Company’s service ; and orders were given in my
“ hearing to Colonel Stuart to declare the same immediately on the parade.
“ I thereupon retired, and immediately returned to the Governor’s gar-
“ dens.

(Signed) “ CLAUD RUSSELL.”

Madras, 31st August 1776.

Sworn to before me,

(Signed) JOHN TURING, Mayor.

The Information of Claud Russell, Esq.

“ THIS informant faith, that on Sunday the 25th, being at the Mount,
“ Major Horne, commanding officer there, gave him to peruse an order
“ he (the Major) had received that morning, signed George Stratton,
“ Henry Brooke, Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer,
“ Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, and that the last paragraph of
“ of the said Order was in these words ; *As the last resource, in case of*
“ *an attempt to rescue Lord Pigot, his life must answer it, and this you will*
“ *signify to him.*”

This

This informant further saith, That the same Order was, some days afterwards, produced to Sir Edward Hughes, the Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships in India, in presence of Lord Pigot, the Honorable Edward Monckton, Alexander Dalrymple, and this informant.

Madras, 31st August.

Sworn to before me,

(Signed) JOHN TURING, Mayor.

N. B. After it had been shewn to Lord Pigot, &c. in Sir Edward Hughes's presence, I wrote upon a bit of paper the words to the best of my recollection, and without shewing this to Mr. Russell I desired him to do the same, which he did, and on comparing them we agreed; however Lord Pigot insists that he is very sure the words are—

“As your last resource, in any attempt to rescue Lord Pigot, his life must answer for it, and this you will signify to him.”

Enclosure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th of April 1777.

To the Right Honorable Lord Pigot, President, &c. Claud Russell, Alexander Dalrymple, and John Maxwell Stone, Esqrs. of Council at Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

WE whose names are underwritten, being of Council, and constituting a Majority hereof, taking into our most serious consideration the proceedings upon record at the two last meetings, and more particularly the unexampled outrage offered to the constitution, and arbitrary behaviour towards two of our Members, by an illegal attempt to suspend them, in order by a trick to gain a Majority, are of opinion that the public safety is in danger by the conduct of Lord Pigot and you gentlemen who have supported, and by every person who shall continue to support such measures, and we shall hold you therefore responsible for all the consequences that may ensue. We, the Majority of the Board, do consider ourselves as the only legal representatives of the Honorable Company under this Presidency, and as such we have no doubt but all the servants of the Company will regard us.

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For

For these reasons, and the evident illegality of the summons to Council for this morning, in which are omitted the names of Mr. George Stratton and Mr. Henry Brooke, two legal Members of the Board, we cannot conscientiously with the duty we owe to our Honorable Employers attend the said summons. We are,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servants,

Madras, 23d August 1776.

(Signed) GEORGE STRATTON,
ROBERT FLETCHER,
HENRY BROOKE,
CHARLES FLOYER,
ARCHDALE PALMER,
FRANCIS JOURDAN,
GEORGE MACKAY.

Fort St. George, 23d August 1776.

Attested to be a true copy of the original, as delivered to the Honorable President George Lord Pigot, &c. Council, on or about eleven o'clock this forenoon, by the direction and order of the within mentioned George Stratton, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES BROMLEY, Not. Pub. (L.S.)

To the Officer commanding the Main Guard, Madras.

S I R,

I am directed by George Stratton, Esq. Sir Robert Fletcher, &c. Gentlemen of Council of Fort St. George, whose names are affixed to an attested copy (herewith sent) of a Letter by me delivered this morning to the Honorable George Lord Pigot, President, &c. Claud Ruffell, Alexander Dalrymple, and John Maxwell Stone, Esqrs. of Council of Fort St.

St. George, to serve the same upon you, of which you will please to take notice; and am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Fort St. George,
23d August 1776.

(Signed) CHAS BROMLEY, Not. Pub.

Enclosure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th of April 1777.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable,

LORD PIGOT having so fully acquainted your Honors with the very extraordinary events which have lately occurred here, nothing remains for us but to send a copy of a letter which each of us received, sealed with the Company's seal.

"SIR,

"THE very illegal and unconstitutional conduct you have shewn in
"the support you have given to Lord Pigot, convinces us that no dependence can be placed in you; and considering how much the affairs of
"the Company have suffered through these means, we are reduced to the
"necessity of suspending you, and you are accordingly hereby suspended
"from the service. We are, Sir,

"Your most obedient servants,

Fort St. George,
24th August 1776.

(Signed) "GEORGE STRATTON,
"HENRY BROOKE,
"ROBERT FLETCHER,
"CHARLES FLOYER,
"ARCHDALE PALMER,
"FRANCIS JOURDAN,
"GEORGE MACKAY."

(84)

Conscious of having done our duty to the Company, we remain,

Honorable,

Your faithful humble Servants,

Madras,
22d September 1776.

CLAUD RUSSELL;
A. DALRYMPLE.
J. M. STONE.

Letter from George Stratton, Esquire to the Chairman of the Honorable the East-India Company, dated Fort St. George, 21st September 1776, and Postscripts of the 25th and 26th of September 1776. Received from the Chairman 2d April 1777.

S I R,

BY the General Letter sent in this ship, the Grenville, you will be informed of the change of Government that has happened at this Presidency, which could not possibly be avoided or delayed, unless the Majority of the Council would have sacrificed the welfare of the Company, together with their own personal safety, and the honor of our faithful ally the Nabob, to the arbitrary and unjustifiable attempts of Lord Pigot. In a few words, seven Members of the Board, to prevent these several alarming consequences, have removed his Lordship from the Government, and have suspended Mess. Russell, Dalrymple, Stone, and Lathom, from the service for supporting him in those illegal measures. I shall attempt to give you a summary of our proceedings from December 1775, in hopes that the rectitude of our conduct throughout this affair, especially our constant moderation, will meet with your approbation, and induce you to give your warmest support to a measure that was founded on the interest of the Company, and the honor of the nation in general. I am very much afraid that in the course of this Letter I must, in justification of myself, sometimes appear to reflect too severely upon the private as well as the public character of Lord Pigot; my former regard and respect for him renders this a very disagreeable task, but I must either point out the secret motives by which he was actuated, and thereby exculpate myself, or else, by an improper delicacy towards him, I must injure myself, and also sacrifice the interest of the public.

The general satisfaction in this Settlement upon his Lordship's arrival, and the harmony and unanimity that subsisted at the Board for some time afterwards, must convince every unprejudiced person that we were all sincerely rejoiced at his appointment. We even paid some compliments to him

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that

that we could not justify to our constituents upon any other grounds than by saying, it was better to give up trifles than to obstruct public business by sowing the seed of constant dissension amongst ourselves. It appears to me that his Lordship misunderstood these laudable motives of our condescension for a pre-determined passive obedience to all his dictates. The language he used to us at the Board, his behaviour to the Nabob at the Durbar, and the various important affairs he undertook to transact without our knowledge or concurrence, but above all his total neglect of public business, obliged us, however unwilling, to adopt a new mode of behaviour. Every Member of the Board most sincerely wished to carry the orders of the Court of Directors into execution relative to Tanjore; but the unaccountable delays about this time not only gave us great reason to complain, but the indignity with which he treated us gave us the greatest concern, as it lowered us in the eyes of the Settlement, he having often made it a practice of summoning the Council at Ten, and while we were waiting for him some hours, he was amusing himself at the gardens. What other reason could he have for thus treating his Council with so much contempt, and delaying business of the greatest importance, but to shew that he did not think their concurrence necessary to arbitrary measures, which he had determined at all events to pursue, and to the execution of which he was resolved not to admit of any opposition.

His Lordship during three months, from the middle of December to March, seldom condescended to report to the Board the result of his daily conferences with the Nabob on the Tanjore business (indeed I believe none of his reports were ever thought of consequence to record). Surprized at his silence on this important subject, I was at length deputed by several Members of the Council to request he would inform the Board what progress he had made towards carrying the orders of the Company into execution. He was apparently displeased at being thus publicly called upon, and soon after declared, that as he found the Nabob was trifling with him, he was determined to leave the Presidency, and finish this business at Tanjore in person. Such a resolution surprized us, but induced, by the high respect we
with

wish to pay to all the orders received from home, and earnestly desirous that those which came by the Grenville should be immediately fulfilled, we gave our consent, not thinking that any concealed dislike to the Nabob, or any consideration of a private nature, could influence his Lordship's conduct; but experience has shewn that we were mistaken in these conjectures. His Lordship has sacrificed the honor of the Company to an erroneous opinion of his personal authority over the Nabob, to the gratification of his personal resentment against him, to an absurd idea of his being independent of his Council, and to the improvement of his private fortune.

Before his departure for Tanjore some debates arose at the Board relative to his military authority when absent from the Presidency. In this affair I joined with the Majority of the Board in reposing great confidence in his conduct, by conferring upon him a power of commanding the troops in every garrison where he should occasionally reside. In acting thus we perhaps deviated from the instructions of the Court of Directors, but we were willing to gratify Lord Pigot in every respect that might render him sensible of our confidence, especially as we hoped by such means to forward the designs of his journey. When his Lordship arrived on the borders of the Tanjore country, he wrote to the Nabob, returning him thanks for the attention he had met with in the road from all the servants of his government. This Letter gave us great satisfaction, as such an appearance of harmony subsisting between the Nabob and Lord Pigot seemed to promise a speedy and happy conclusion of this business. Almost the first news of his Lordship's proceedings came to us from the Nabob, who complained of a troop of European Cavalry being sent to Arialoor, a fort belonging to the Nabob, to seize on one of his servants, who was in possession of all his papers and accounts both public and private. We were very much astonished at this violation of our treaty with the Nabob, when Lord Pigot could not be a stranger to the 22d paragraph of the Grenville's Letter, wherein the Directors say, "That they fear it is impracticable to obtain a statement of the Nabob's receipts and disbursements of the revenues of the Tanjore country;" which implies, that they did not think themselves authorized to obtain them by military

tary force. But guess our astonishment, Sir, when we found that his Lordship, so far from apologizing to the Nabob for his conduct, declared, "That
 " if the gates of Aialoor, or any other gates in the Payen Gaut should be
 " shut against the troops of the Company, when they asked admission by
 " *his authority*, it would be an improper return *to the man who had put*
 " *his Highness in possession of them.*"

When his Lordship thus arrogated to himself the sole merit of our successes in the last war, and upbraided an ally of the crown with personal ingratitude to him, no wonder he should consider himself superior to the control of his Council and Constituents, and therefore assume to himself unlimited powers, which happily, and particularly in this instance, the freedom of our constitution denies to any individual. I could repeat many other acts of violence committed by his Lordship during his expedition to the southward, but as they are most of them entered on our records, they are acts that need no comment. The labour and artifice even of Mr. *Dalrymple* has been lost in attempting to explain them away. When his Lordship returned from Tanjore, the business being finished, we expected that all his animosity to the Nabob would subside; on the contrary his resentment became personal. He seldom mentioned his name in public or in private without adding some epithet in the highest degree illiberal and indecent, and at the same time speaking of the Rajah of Tanjore with the most flattering encomiums. Although the Majority of the Board were extremely concerned to find his Lordship influenced by prejudice and partiality, yet, whilst the effect of these passions were felt only in words, which could not cause any immediate dangerous consequences, we could do no more than silently lament his unaccountable indiscretion, and prepared to guard against it. In a very short time afterwards his actions called upon us to interpose, lest the Nabob might mistake the party and violent measures of the President for the deliberate acts of Government, which he must naturally conclude originated in orders sent from the Court of Directors.

The first alarm we received was a Letter from Sir Edward Hughes, informing us that the Nabob had claimed the protection of his Majesty's
 6 flag,

flag, in consequence of Lord Pigot's threats to place an European guard at the gates of his garden. This proceeded from a conference his Lordship had with the Nabob, when he requested, in the most flattering and soothing terms, that he would write him a Letter (a draft of which he presented to him) expressing the most perfect approbation of his conduct in all transactions since his arrival, but particularly at Tanjore. It was impossible for the Nabob to comply with his request, for he had repeatedly wrote to Bengal complaining of the behaviour of Lord Pigot. At this refusal his Lordship grew outrageous, and swore he would immediately place an European guard over him. If Lord Pigot was satisfied with his own behaviour, why did he take such trouble in obtaining this Letter, by doing of which he was conscious of having acted improperly; or on what pretence could he make such a demand? This affair was followed by another no less inconsistent with that respect and friendship due to the Nabob, considered as the Soubah of the Carnatic and an ally to the Crown. Lord Pigot being informed by a spy, one of his menial servants, that the Nabob was sending into the country an old woman, one of his own subjects, under a guard, with an intention to confine her, his Lordship ordered a party of Seapoys to march and receive the prisoner, which was accordingly done at St. Thome, though they first went into the Nabob's garden, and so much alarmed the Nabob's sons, that they immediately hurried with what people they had to protect their father, whom they thought was to be made a prisoner. In giving this order his Lordship violated our treaty with the Nabob; he violated the laws of our country, in making use of a military force against a prince not subject to our authority; he violated the Orders of the Company, in taking a step of such importance to their affairs without the concurrence of the Council; and he violated the rules of decency and good manners, in subjecting the Nabob's wives and family to the insult of a set of men rendered insolent by acting under his Lordship's sanction and authority. Unprecedented and important as these steps of his Lordship's appear to be, he never reported them to the Board, nor should we have heard of them, if the Nabob, who expected every day to see people breaking into his private apartments (a dishonor he would not survive) had not on that account applied to Sir Edward Hughes

for protection. When Lord Pigot was asked at the Board to explain the motives of these violent proceedings, he did not hesitate to declare, that he meant to station an European guard over the Nabob, to bring to him all Europeans who should dare to visit him. The reason he assigned for sending Seapoys after the old woman was equally unjust, frivolous, and absurd; to prevent the Nabob, who possesses an uncontrolled power over his subjects, from sending any person whatever out of these districts without his knowledge. Admitting the Nabob was amenable to our laws, which no man in his senses can suppose, what right had his Lordship, by military force, to be guilty of a violence against the Nabob, that he could not legally have shewn against any subject of Great Britain? But the privileges of Princes and the rights of individuals are held in no estimation by a person of his Lordship's arbitrary disposition. In the midst of these disputes, whilst the mind of the Nabob was under the most violent agitation from the frequent insults he received, and in constant apprehension of having them repeated, his Lordship received news from the Cape of Good Hope and Pondicherry that a rupture was expected with France; this intelligence he did not think proper to communicate to the Board, in all probability apprehensive that we should recommend to him to behave with more moderation towards the Nabob; for he must be sensible, that if the Nabob should be dissatisfied towards us, or even be cool in our interest, during a French war, our inevitable destruction must ensue. I certainly do not pay too great a compliment to his discernment in saying this; the truth and propriety of my opinion must be obvious to every person who is acquainted with our situation in this country. When the Majority of the Board found that mild remonstrances had no effect, and when, by an indirect channel, they were informed of the probability of a war, they thought it their duty to lose no time in attempting to conciliate the mind of the Nabob, and to convince him, that all the mortification he had lately suffered were solely owing to the personal resentment of Lord Pigot. The Records will shew, that every Member of the Majority most earnestly wished to support Lord Pigot in all legal measures, and to regulate their conduct solely by the honor and interest

terest of the Company ; no personal pique, no hopes of personal advantage, had the smallest influence in any one measure we adopted. I should be happy if regard to truth and justice would allow me to say as much for his Lordship; but in the course of this Letter I flatter myself I shall prove, that personal interest only has influenced Lord Pigot's conduct, from the instant he proposed returning to India to the present time. If I was as much his Lordship's enemy as perhaps he deserves, I should in this place enter into an examination of his former conduct in this country, and attack that great reputation for disinterestedness which he acquired during his former government ; but I shall let him enjoy it, unless he shall hereafter oblige me to speak more plainly, and for the present confine myself to those particulars which relate to his late misconduct.

When his Lordship left this country in the year 1763, the Nabob promised to allow him 12,000 Pagodas per annum in England for reasons best known to himself ; he continued this money for some time until the Nabob wrote a Letter excusing himself, by representing that his finances would not allow him to do it ; but when he was informed that Lord Pigot was expected to be appointed Governor, or after his Lordship's arrival here, he paid into the hands of Messrs. Stone and Monckon, on his account, bills to the value of 125,000 Pagodas, which it is believed greatly exceeds any balance due on the supposed pension. His Lordship kept possession of this money, until by some means or other this transaction had taken air, and he was apprehensive that his treatment of the Nabob, after what had passed at Tanjore, would bring matters to light, the consequence of which he well knew, and led him therefore to make a tender of the money back to the Nabob, who refused taking it. The acceptance of this present Lord Pigot does not deny ; but he endeavours to exculpate himself by declaring, that he would not have received any money but these sums, that were due to him previous to the late Act of Parliament. This evasion I presume will not have much weight with the Company, who cannot admit of such nice distinctions.

tinctions without appearing to give countenance to transactions of very dangerous tendency. We have not yet mentioned this circumstance, as it has not yet come before us.

In all probability his Lordship will think that he has prevented a prosecution, and suppressed every suspicion of venality, by offering to return the Nabob's money ; it might perhaps extenuate the fault, if he had not, as I am informed, received bonds and orders from the Rajah of Tanjore to an amazing amount ; and that the Rajah's mother had given him two diamonds, the one flat and square, the other thick and of an oval form, both of great value.

My Lord Pigot, or his Dubash, has placed some of his lowest dependents in the entire government of the Rajah ; as a proof, the leading man, under whom the government of this valuable country is placed, is one Oppoo, a Conicoply, who had been a clerk in the works here under Colonel Ross at 24 Shillings per month ; and it is known to be a fact, that every man of consequence or family in the Tanjore country are excluded from the Rajah's presence, and he therefore sees only things through this Oppoo, who was placed there by Moodoo Kistnah. Under these circumstances you cannot be surprized if the legal proof cannot by this dispatch be brought forward.

The orders from the Court of Directors for the restoration of the Rajah are clear and positive, but at the same time they certainly wished to have them executed, if possible, without giving any uneasiness or displeasure to the Nabob ; this much was due to his honor and long attachment to us, and even to a regard for our own reputation ; for if we could not in some degree make it appear a voluntary act of his own, the country powers must be astonished at our apparent fickleness, in aiding the Nabob to take Tanjore, and immediately afterwards, although we acted as allies, and not as principals in the war, to deprive him of a conquest made by our assistance. I mention this, not to reflect on the conduct of those who gave the orders, but on his Lordship who abused the power delegated

delegated to him to carry them into execution, and wantonly to insult the Nabob, even after the Company were in possession of Tanjore. All his Lordship's transactions there testify not only dislike, but the most violent rancour against the Nabob, and also a strong and sudden predilection in favour of the Rajah. In the perusal of our proceedings, from the month of April to the 23d August, you will observe the utmost moderation and forbearance on the part of the Majority; but Lord Pigot was determined not to admit of any opposition to the two following proposals, which he laid before the Board, and on the establishment of which all his prospects depended: "That we should purchase the crop of grain then growing on the Tanjore country; and that we should appoint a Chief and Council or Resident to remain continually with the Rajah." Both these proposals were made with so much art that some of us thought of acceding to them; but when we considered that the crop was sown at the Nabob's expense; that the country belonged to him by right of conquest, when those lands were cultivated; that he would be greatly distressed by the loss of so much money, and consequently not able to make good his payment to the Company and his other creditors; that he had assigned over the crop to discharge a debt which he had contracted with individuals for the expenses of the war and the improvement of the country; and that the appointment of a Chief and Council was repugnant both to the sense and spirit of the Company's orders, particularly in the 7th paragraph of their separate Letter per Grenville: All these considerations (against which his Lordship did not oppose any reasonable argument, and nevertheless continued deaf to all our remonstrances) awakened our suspicions. We began to perceive that there must be some concealed motives for his inflexible obstinacy, and therefore determined to avail ourselves of being the Majority of the Board to counteract his interested designs. So many persons are acquainted with all money transactions in this country, that those of a most private nature generally become public. Whilst we were at a loss to account for his Lordship's conduct, the report arose that the Rajah had made him large presents; this at once accounted for all his Lordship's behaviour, his dislike to the Nabob, his affection for the Rajah; his designs of taking the grain from the Nabob to

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supply the Rajah with money, and his wish to appoint Mr. Russell (attached to him by the strongest ties) nominally the Company's Chief, but, as we believe, his Lordship's Agent to realize the bonds the Rajah had given him, when the Rajah should be paid for the grain bought; and as an increase of our suspicions, it happened much about this time the Rajah applied to us for a Lack of Pagodas, which his Lordship strongly recommended should be sent to him.

Whilst these affairs were in agitation, and every other business neglected, Colonel Stuart arrived from England, with the rank of second in command in the Army: the choice made of this Gentleman by the Court of Directors to succeed Sir Robert Fletcher, in preference to any of the Field Officers already in India, was a convincing proof of their opinion of his superior abilities; this, as well as his rank, entitled him to the command of Tanjore, where it was necessary to have an Officer of abilities and experience, to give the Rajah a favourable opinion of our Government, to convince him of the advantages he would derive from his connexion with us, but above all, to counteract the designs of the French, who, in case of a war, would probably make the first attack against this place. In our motives for appointing this Gentleman, whom we thought equal to this important trust, we considered partly the nature of that private influence, which, from the letter and spirit of your instructions, we clearly perceived was not to be exerted by any deputy from the Board, under the denomination of a Chief or Resident, to interfere in the Council or civil government of the Rajah, and bring on those evils which experience had shewn been attended with such fatal consequences in Bengal, after the revolution brought on there by Lord Clive; but rather, by being master of his capital with a garrison, having at its head a man of discretion and prudence, the Company's interest in essentials should not suffer a foreign power to be introduced into that country, important from its situation respecting European powers, to be led by Durbar intrigue, or private advisers near the Rajah.—In short, this was the utmost of our wish, not to make

make his subjects a prey to European influence in the interior management of his country.

Lord Pigot declared repeatedly both public and private, that Colonel Stuart should never be appointed until Mr. Russell was nominated Chief or Resident ; this declaration opened our eyes, and at the same time brought our disputes with his Lordship to a crisis. The contest was no longer if Mr. Russell or Colonel Stuart should go to Tanjore, but whether his Lordship should subvert the system of the service, and assume to himself the uncontrolled authority of Government. We had already paid too many compliments to his Lordship, and too frequently, in doing so, had transgressed the orders of the Company, although we had hitherto been cautious that their affairs should not suffer essentially by our condescension ; but in this case, had we not opposed him with the greatest firmness, we must shamefully have neglected our duty to the Company, and given up the reins of Government to a man who was in pursuit of enormous wealth for himself, and hurrying his Employers to inevitable destruction.—As honest men, as faithful servants to the Company and the public, no choice was left us. When Colonel Stuart's appointment was agreed to by a Majority of the Board, and his instructions were laid before us by the Commander in Chief, Lord Pigot tacitly approved, but desired time to consider of them. After some days no notice being taken of them, Sir Robert Fletcher being indisposed, sent others more full and complete,—particularly mentioning that article of the Company's instructions by the Grenville, where it is directed “ not to interfere in the civil government of the Rajah.”—When the Motion for the approval of these instructions was made, Lord Pigot refused to put the Question, and immediately adjourned the Council.—The next day his Lordship persisted in his refusal, declaring, at the same time, that he would not suffer this Question to be agitated again.—The instructions being approved by the Majority, and copied fair, were presented to his Lordship to be signed, but he positively refused, and adjourned the Council.—The next day, finding that Lord Pigot was inflexible, and that he would not listen

to our arguments on this subject, we, the Majority, agreed that the Secretary should sign the instructions by *order of Council*, and accordingly gave this opinion in writing, and at his Lordship's particular request, to which we all signed our names; but Lord Pigot addressing himself to me directly after, in a familiar manner said, *that we should indemnify the Secretary, by giving him a direct order to sign the Letter to Colonel Stuart*, BY ORDER OF COUNCIL. The Majority did not see the necessity of this, and declared so; but his Lordship urging us to do it in the strongest terms, a paper, to the same effect of that which he had before signed, was drawn out with only this alteration, "*that it directed the Secretary to sign the instructions by order of Council.*" This paper was read to his Lordship, and being soon after wrote fair, I was on the point of signing it at the lower end of the table; but his Lordship coming in, called upon me to take my seat; I did so with the fair paper in my hand—he asked me what it was? I told him it was a fair copy of the order *he wished* the Majority to give to the Secretary, and then read it to him, and immediately after signed it; I then gave it to Mr. Brooke, who sat on my right hand, who also placed his name to it; and he was on the point of giving it to Mr. Floyer, who sat next to him, when his Lordship took it out of Mr. Brooke's hand, and putting it in his pocket, produced a charge he had already prepared (I understand some days before) declaring therein that Mr. Brooke and myself, "Were guilty of an act subversive of the authority of Government, and tending to introduce anarchy in signing the order to the Secretary to give instructions to Colonel Stuart, which had not being approved and passed by the President and Council;"—this having been read, he soon after moved that we should be suspended the service, which was agreed to by Messieurs Russell, Dalrymple, and Stone, notwithstanding the Majority, previous thereto, proposed an adjournment; but no sooner did he carry this point but he broke up from the Council, though many Members called upon him that they had business to propose. It is necessary to observe, that in this supposed suspension Lord Pigot voted, though the accuser, and by his casting voice succeeded; that he would not suffer either Mr. Brooke or myself to give
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our voice on the question proposed for our suspension. The next morning, being the 23d ultimo, Lord Pigot directed the Secretary to send round a summons for a Council, in which the name of Mr. Brooke and myself were omitted; therefore Sir Robert Fletcher, Messieurs Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay refused to attend, it being no longer a Council acting under the Company's commission, but an unconstitutional faction entirely devoted to his Lordship. We first had resource to those measures which the law directs to be taken in these cases, by sending a protest against all his Lordship's proceedings by a Notary Public; this our moderation produced the suspension of Messieurs Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, and at the same time, the Town-Major was sent by this Minority of the Council to Sir Robert Fletcher to put him under an arrest for a capital crime, and the Town-Adjutant with the general orders to Colonel Stuart, appointing him Commander in Chief of the Forces. The Government thus dissolved, Sir Robert Fletcher threatened to be tried by military law for his life, and for his conduct as a Member of the Board, gave every one of us the greatest reason to be apprehensive of our personal safety, as well as for the safety of the Settlement in general; knowing also the secret motives by which his Lordship was actuated, and convinced that he would make use of the power he had assumed to effect purposes highly detrimental to the interest of the Company, we were called upon by our duty to ourselves and our constituents to exert ourselves to wrest the power from the hands of his Lordship, and to endeavour to restore the public tranquillity. At this time, when the arrest was intimated to Sir Robert Fletcher, he was in a dying way, unable to raise himself from his couch; we considered therefore Colonel Stuart, in virtue of your powers, as the acting Commander in Chief when this supposed arrest took place, and, *as the legal Government vested in the Majority of the Board by his Majesty's Charter*, we gave him our orders and instructions accordingly. From a sense of his duty he made no difficulty to obey our orders, and by his uncommon address and firmness greatly contributed to avert all the evils impending over this Government, by preparing matters here with secrecy and expedition, and by putting Lord Pigot in arrest under the care of an

officer of great prudence and discretion (commanding at the Mount) whom he had selected and previously prepared for that purpose. To prevent the possibility of any disturbance happening by Lord Pigot's residing near the Presidency, we have repeatedly requested him to remove to one of the Subordinates, or to go to Europe; but he declines accepting of our offer, and declares publicly, if he was released, or could escape from his confinement, he would immediately *come to the Fort*; and, if he could be re-established in his government, that he would hang Colonel Stuart, Colonel Edington, and Captain Lysaught. Such declarations as these oblige us, however unwilling, still to keep his Lordship in arrest at the Mount, to prevent the effect of his desperate madness. He is there treated with every mark of respect, and has his family and friends continually with him. If I have omitted any arguments for the necessity of putting Lord Pigot under arrest, I trust that you will find them fully stated in the public dispatch, and that you will be convinced, not only of this necessity, but likewise the reasons of state which oblige us still to keep a watch over him; and which I privately say to you, and in the utmost confidence, not having as yet communicated the same to the Council, will oblige us to send him to be judged by you our constituents; for I say to you, that public business cannot properly be carried on while he remains in the country; and this is not only my opinion, but the opinions of the Nabob and every Member of the Board, and we wait on this important point for the opinion of the Governor-General and Council.

Here I beg leave to request your attention to the following points.—Lord Pigot's proclamation at Tanjore, not to give protection or rice to the Nabob's people; and if any person gave shelter to any of his servants, he should be considered as criminal.—His Lordship's behaviour to Abran Khan, Nizam ul din Khan, Ally din Khan, and other people of consequence belonging to the Nabob, whom he insulted with single guards belonging to the Company, in the face of 6000 men under their command belonging to the Nabob, who had given particular orders on no account to make any resistance.

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The countenance and protection Lord Pigot gave to many servants belonging to the Nabob, but especially to his son-in-law Khire ul din Khan, who is largely indebted to his Highness, and also to European shopkeepers.—His Lordship invited this dissipated young man to fly from the Nabob, to live in a house hired by him in our Black Town, and surrounded by our Scapoys, to raise a suspicion that the Nabob intended to murder him.—All this is contrary to a former agreement between this Government and the Nabob, who makes it a point to apprehend and return every deserter or fugitive from this place; and unless we had his friendship on this occasion, we might ever expect great desertion among the European soldiers.—Besides, should not this agreement be binding on our part, every Amuldar or renter under the Nabob, who had the means but not the inclination to pay their arrears, would, by this encouragement, declaredly given by this Government, fly to us for protection to avoid paying their demand.

His Lordship mis-representing the sentiments of the Rajah of Tanjore, and also the state of the magazines in that garrison to the Board; and his Lordship privately altering the Company's records—These and many other facts you will find proved in our Minutes of Consultation, which must set forth his conduct to you in a proper light. And here I must beg leave to observe as a proof, that we had in view your interest and the national honor respecting Lord Pigot's conduct at Tanjore, as well as with respect to the Nabob. The fortunate concurrence of ideas of the Governor-General and Council upon these points, appear clearly by the singular unanimity of these gentlemen in the Letter and Resolutions which go numbered in the Packet. This circumstance in particular has afforded matter of great satisfaction to me; because, in the situation in which the State has placed that Supreme Council, I shall think it my duty to concur with them, and to meet their ideas, when it is not repugnant to the Company's orders and instructions.

Thus, Sir, I have given you a summary of what has passed on this occasion, and the various causes which gave rise to this change in the Government,

ment, very improperly called by some a Revolution. I flatter myself every unprejudiced person will approve of what has been done. On reflection on what has passed, I confess we were to blame not to have acted at first with more spirit, when we perceived the leading principles of Lord Pigot's conduct: we allowed him to dictate so long, that the evil became inveterate, and the remedy to be effectual must necessarily be beyond the common rules.

His Lordship's friends, taking advantage of the remembrance of his former services, doubtless will attempt to injure us in the opinion of our constituents, and endeavour to influence their judgment; but I flatter myself an insinuation only, unsupported by proof, will have no effect. If I had the same cupidity for money and such boundless ambition as Lord Pigot, my fortune, acquired by a service of upwards of twenty-five years, might have been greatly increased, and, instead of my present competency, I should have made, like his Lordship, half a million sterling.

I make no doubt but his Lordship will accuse us of partiality to the Nabob. Do our proceedings shew any thing like it? Have we ever given up any one point to him contrary to the Orders of the Company, or even paid any compliments to him but those due to his rank? Had we acted otherwise we should have failed in our duty; but in particular should we not now in good policy, when the Fortrefs of Tanjore is garrisoned by the Company's troops, when all cause of temptation for independence on his part is removed, when we ought to reconcile him by little and little to his present situation, now the strength of Britain is employed at such a distance as to deprive us of immediate support from thence; ought we not, I say, on all these accounts, to treat the Nabob of the Carnatic with every degree of respect, regard, and attention, particularly when so ordered by Letters and Instructions from home? Good policy as well as humanity dictate such a conduct to us.

I presume that Lord Pigot will impute the part which I have taken to desire of being in the Chair : if this consideration could have had any weight with me, I should have acted otherwise ; for I am convinced, had I attached myself to Lord Pigot, and assisted him in realizing his Tanjore bonds, that he would have returned to England in the Grenville. It is a fact that I had no idea of remaining to succeed to the Government ; which is well known to many in the Settlement, having sent home my fortune, and was determined to leave India on the Greenwich. My attornies Messieurs Pigou and Fitzhugh will testify the truth of this.

Upon the whole, Sir, the Board as well as myself have found it almost next to impossible to bring the complicated, irregular, unconstitutional, and violent conduct of Lord Pigot under any one, two, or three heads of charges ; I must therefore beg, that you and the gentlemen will view it in the general line. We wish most sincerely to have digested the History of his Government, and brought it under some specific charge, to be publickly known to him as well as to his Employers ; doubt whether this will be in our power before the ship sails. One thing is clear ; we all agree that he has abused the power vested in him, as a Governor and Servant of the Company ; and that he has not only justly forfeited that station, but likewise from the despair and madness of the man, and the possibility of his attempting at all risks, by under-hand practices or violence, to recover his *military situation in this garrixon*. We have not a doubt but you will approve of our conduct in distinguishing his case from that of the suspended Counsellors ; and that we shall be justified in the eyes of our Employers for putting a restraint on his person, until we can concert the proper measures to dispose of him elsewhere ; upon this we shall consult with the Governor, General and Council in Bengal.

The hurry of dispatching this ship, of writing to Bengal, transacting the current business, and counteracting his Lordship's secret machinations to cause confusion in the Settlement, must apologize for every inaccuracy you will meet with in this Letter ; the facts contained in it you will find

in our records; they are told in the simple language of truth, unadorned with the graces of composition; but I flatter myself they will not be less attended to on that account.

As Sir Edward Hughes intends sending the Swallow to Suez on the 30th instant, you will receive a duplicate of this letter by that conveyance, as well as of our public dispatches, which will be intrusted to the care of Colonel Capper, who having had the Board's permission to go home on family affairs, voluntarily offered his services to the Council on this important occasion. He is a gentleman of the greatest worth, and well acquainted with every concurrence; I must therefore take the liberty of not only recommending him to you in the strongest manner, but at the same time to request you will apply to him for any information you may require respecting the unjustifiable conduct of Lord Pigot, not mentioned in the public advices or in this letter. As I found it necessary that a gentleman should accompany Colonel Capper in case of sickness or death, I desired he would ask one to accompany him for this purpose, and he accordingly requested this favour of Mr. Dighton, a young fellow of worth, who shewed the greatest readiness on this occasion, though it was attended with much inconvenience to himself; and understanding that it was the wish of every Member of the Council, as well as the intention of Lord Pigot and those we suspended, to recommend him to the Directors, I could not in this case hesitate a moment in proposing to do this in a public letter, and you will oblige me in getting him nominated a Factor in the service. The Nabob and Commodore's advices are also intrusted to the care of Colonel Capper with the same injunctions, that in case of sickness or death they should be given to Mr. Dighton.

This letter I have intrusted to the care of Mr. Bryan Scottney, who goes in the Grenville, a gentleman whom I have long known and have the greatest regard for; any service therefore that you can with propriety render him I should esteem it a singular favour.

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I have only to add my sincere assurances, that I shall always make a point in paying every attention to the orders of my Employers, and that nothing shall be wanting on my part to promote their interest and welfare.

I have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

Fort St. George,
21st September 1776.

GEO. STRATTON.

John Roberts, Esquire.

Fort St. George, 25th September 1776.

S I R,

SINCE closing our dispatches, I understand that the Nabob has received information with respect to the deposition of Mr. Randall, proving that he was encouraged by Lord Pigot's friends as well as himself to make this deposition, and had money given him for this purpose; this information, I understand, is given upon oath to the Nabob, by a person who was in Mr. Randall's company when the above circumstances came to his knowledge. If I can procure a copy of this information before the ship sails, I shall send it enclosed in this letter.

I cannot conclude without giving you every assurance, that I shall always conduct myself in such a manner as to promote the Company's interest, and punctually to follow their orders; having the honor to remain with respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

GEO. STRATTON.

S I R,

S I R,

SINCE closing the public letter, dated yesterday, we have received a letter addressed to the Board from Mr. Charles Weston, accompanying a declaration with respect to the deposition of Mr. Randall, copies of both which I have the honor to enclose to you herewith, as it will shew you the bad intention of Randall in introducing the circumstances of the visit he paid to Comera. I have reason to believe that Randall, foreseeing the consequence of a law prosecution here, he will by some means or other get home in the Grenville, or some other ship; but if my information be true, the infamy of his character is well known in England.

I am, &c.

27th September 1776.

G. S.

Letter from Henry Brooke, Esquire.

To John Roberts, Esq. or the Chairman for the time being, for the Affairs of the East-India Company, London. Dated Fort St. George, 2d October, 1776; received the 2d April, 1777.

S I R,

The multiplicity of business when the Grenville was dispatched, prevented me at that time from being as full on some parts of our President's conduct as I could wish.

Mr. Floyer having given his vote contrary to the President's opinion, regarding the assignments on the Tanjore country, he turned to him and said, "I see you have given your vote against me, but let me tell you, "Sir, that any man who shall dare to give his voice against me at this Board, "I shall look upon him *as my declared Enemy*; and in case any place of trust "or emolument in the service shall become vacant, he shall never be ap- "pointed thereto, if that appointment shall rest with me," or words to that effect. These were taken down by the President's order on a separate piece of paper by the Secretary; but the Board, out of a desire to pursue moderate measures, did not insist upon their being entered on our records, in the hope that the President would see into the mistaken ideas of his powers; but instead of changing his conduct, he has persevered in the same sentiments; I think myself therefore at liberty to mention this circumstance to you.

The President has not scrupled on all occasions to assert, that we are *his Council*, thereby arrogantly putting himself in the place of the Company, and assuming to himself all their powers.

It is proper to inform you, that many obstructions were thrown in the way by the President to prevent the Company's orders regarding the Committee of Circuit from being carried into execution; and for that purpose he suddenly proposed, that the Chief and Council should be sent to Tanjore, declaring that the Board must determine thereon immediately. Several Members objected to this manner of proceeding, observing, that the subject was new and important, and that they could not give an opinion unless time was allowed them to consider it. The Rajah's fears and

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alarms were frequently mentioned by the President, and Mr. Russell proposed to proceed thither to quell them.—The Board knew of none, and called upon the President to explain them, but he could not; and from a letter lately received from the Rajah, it appears he never had any, unless such as the President himself might have raised by the aforesaid proposal; to which it was objected, that as it was the Company's orders, that there should not be any interference in the Rajah's Government, the Board could not give their consent; especially as Mr. Russell was named by the Company to be a Member of the Committee of Circuit, and should therefore proceed on that service before any other.

I will not insist on the importance of sending Colonel Stuart to Tanjore, though the President has not, nor cannot give any *public reason* why he should not go to that great charge; the matter of more importance was *the doctrine*, which he held at the Board;—That no question could or should be put, that was not put by himself, nor would he put any that was not to his approbation; and that no resolution could be carried into effect that was not also approved by him. This was striking at the very foundation of the Company's safety, and rights of the Council, which, if admitted, could not be recalled by us; the virtue and use of the Council would have been annihilated, and the whole powers of Government grasped within the hands of the President: It was not therefore the matter of importance, whether this or that man went to Tanjore, but when the Company's interests and rights of the Council are publicly discussed at the Board, it is of the greatest import, that they be maintained according to the rules and constitution of the Service.—I will beg leave to add, that this matter had been deliberated upon for many days, and every thing that patience and reason could suggest was urged to convince him of his error, but in vain. The Company's standing orders were read, wherein they say, the resolution of the majority shall be binding and conclusive, and the dissenters shall conform thereto, but shall not be blamed for the consequence. Mr. Vansittart's Narrative was read, and the usage of the Service from immemorial time in all the Presidencies explained; and lastly, the Act of Parliament of seventy-four was produced. To these no good arguments were opposed.—For besides the other passages that I have quoted, is it possible to conceive, that the Court of Directors should mean to invest their inferior Presidents with a power, which their Governor-General, the person of highest station and authority in India, was not possessed of?

It is necessary that I should explain fully what passed at the Board on the 22d of August, as the Council was adjourned to that day, for the purpose of

of taking into their consideration the instructions to Colonel Stuart. The President, having before refused to put the question for approving them, was that day called upon again to put it, which he obstinately refused to do, or to suffer it to be put. The Majority then having approved the instructions, judged proper to direct the Secretary to forward them to Colonel Stuart, *by order of Council*, as the only moderate expedient left; but this also he would not allow to be done, asserting a right, as President of the Council, to put a negative on any resolution of the Majority which he did not approve: nevertheless a paper was drawn out, directed to the Secretary, and signed by six Members to the above effect; but the President having excepted to the words, *we think ourselves authorized to direct, &c.* it was agreed by the Majority to alter them, and insert in their room, *we direct the Secretary, &c.* This alteration was made not only with the concurrence of the President, but at his special desire. While this paper was writing fair, the President retired with some of his associates into his own apartment, where he stayed for some time, and then returning to the table, the Members took their seats according to form. The paper so altered being then read to the President, no one excepted thereto. Mr. Stratton being the senior Member signed it first, and gave it to me; I signed it also, and was handing it to Mr. Floyer to sign, when the President raising himself in his chair across the corner of the table, snatched it suddenly out of my hand, put it into his pocket, and instantly drew therefrom a written charge against Mr. Stratton and myself, for attempting by that order to subvert the Government. It was in vain that the other four Members declared their resolution to sign it also, and that they demanded it for that purpose; he refused it, and confined the charge to us two only, for had he admitted the others, it would have become of no effect, because we should then have been a majority. He called for the votes upon the question, refusing to admit Mr. Stratton's and mine, as being the party accused. There then would have remained four against the suspension, and on the other side three, excluding the President as the accuser, which was urged on the same principle that he excluded the accused; but he insisted it was different, and, by virtue of his casting voice, pronounced that we were suspended. The manner in which this business was hurried through, and the facility with which his associates joined him, is difficult for me to describe; but to all unprejudiced minds it must at once convey his idea, that it was a preconcerted scheme to gain a majority at all events. On his requiring the Members to vote, those of the majority moved for an adjournment, but he would not allow it; and after the votes were collected, they moved for setting, but he hastily broke up the Council and retired. Mr. Stratton and myself entered our protests at the table, but the President afterwards struck them out of the records with his own hand, as the Secretary informs me.

Either

Either the Majority is the Government, or it is not; if it is not, why are the afore-mentioned passages given to misguide us? but if the Majority is the Government, it surely must mean a power to execute their own resolves, or it must mean nothing; for of what use is a resolution without a power to execute it? If exceptions should be made to the mode of execution, in respect to the arrest of the Governor's person, let it be considered what other mode was left for us to take: There was only this alternative, to resign the interests of the Company, and the rights they had reposed in us, to the will and power of one man; for by the same means, and on the same principles, that he attempted to suspend us, he might by degrees have suspended the few that adhered to him. Could we make this resignation without betraying our trust? Or could we allow it to be taken from us by an action composed of *trick and violence*, without justly incurring the reputation of want of firmness to do our duty, and making ourselves responsible for the evils that might ensue? I think we could not.—And the tranquillity that now prevails shews, that as it was in our opinion the last, so perhaps it was the safest and best expedient we could have adopted; for what grounds had we to believe, that mischiefs would not have happened from the conduct of the man who could not be restrained by the orders of the Company, the Constitution of the Service, and the Act of Parliament?

I am, S I R,

Very respectfully,

Fort St. George,
2d October, 1776.

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

HENRY BROOKE.

By his Majesty's ship Swallow, via Suez.

Letter from Mr. Monro to the Majority of the Council, dated 23d September, 1776.—Received over-land 7th April, 1777.

To George Stratton, Esquire, Sir Robert Fletcher, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires.

GENTLEMEN,

You have at last thought proper to send (two hours before the time fixed by you for the closing of the Grenville's packet) your proceedings relative

relative to my suspension, although applied for by me by letter on the 16th Instant. Was I not to inform you, that I have already acquainted our Honourable Masters of your tardiness in sending them, I should think myself deficient in point of candour.

The shortness of the time does not permit me now to make any remarks on your proceedings in regard to me, I reserve this to a future opportunity, in case I should think it expedient; in the mean time, I refer my cause to your Honourable Masters and mine, who will judge between us, whose conduct, in regard to the stile of the address claimed by you, for the Gentlemen whom you have found it expedient to enact and proclaim President of your Council and Governor of Fort Saint George: and now, gentlemen, for this time I take my leave of you, not doubting but the justice of our Honourable Masters will extend to you and to your

Humble Servant.

Fort St. George,
23d Sept. 1776.

(A true copy)

R. D. MONRO.

Translation of a Letter from the Nabob to Governor Stratton, dated and received 18th September, 1776.—Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

The Commodore shewed me a paper this morning, containing a very extraordinary matter relative to my Son Ameer ul Omrah Behauder. For the vindication of the honour of my family, which has always been famed for mildness, and aversion to the shedding of blood, and in compliance with the earnest entreaty of my Son, I request that you will cause Mr. Randall to be confined, and that you will go into a thorough examination of this business; if you do not, he will run away, and my Son will lay under groundless suspicions, which may not easily be removed. It is not necessary for me in this letter to inform you of the villainy of Mr. Randall; it will be sufficiently evident to you when he appears before you. It is nevertheless proper for me to shew there is cause, from other criminal behaviour, for his being imprisoned, that thereby there may be an opportunity of proving his guilt, he (Mr. Randall) having forged letters from Lord North, and Mr. Robinson, Secretary of Lord North, containing the worst designs, in order to impose upon me; he likewise forged paragraphs of letters from

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Sir

Sir Elijah Impey, and often declared to my Son, if he would give him money he would do any thing in England for him, whether good or bad, all which will be fully shewn. My Son saw from such behaviour of Mr. Randall, that he was a bad man, and therefore determined not to shew him any favour, which Mr. Randall observing was very angry, and spoke to my Son in a very unbecoming manner. Abdul Rusheed Cawn, my Dewan, upon this account told Mr. Randall four days ago, in the presence of Major Alexander and Mr. Mellow, that he was dismissed from my service; upon which he went two days afterwards with the most malignant intentions, and made a false declaration before the Mayor's Court: all this will be made fully to appear upon examination. With respect to the life of Lord Pigot, I trust in God it will not be my ill fortune that he should die in this country; I have hopes that by his living to go to England to have his conduct examined into by the King and Parliament, and the Company, I shall be enabled to obtain publick justice for the wrongs he has done me.—What can I say more?

(A true copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Letter from George Stratton, Esq. to the Nabob, dated Fort St. George, 22d. September, 1777.

Received over-land by Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To his Highness Navaub Walau Jau, Umeer ul Hind, Omdat ul Mulk, Anfuph ul Dowlah, Anwar ul dien Khan Behauder, Zuphur Jung, Sepoy Saulaur, Soubahdar of the Carnatick Payen Ghaut.

May it please your Highness,

I have had the honour to receive your Highness's letter, dated the 18th and 22d Instant. The affidavits you have forwarded, as well as the circumstances, render the assertions of Mr. Randall not to be believed. I have the pleasure to acquaint your Highness, that the Council all join with me in opinion, that your Son Ameer ul Omrah is incapable of such a design. The conduct of Mr. Randall is undoubtedly base, but it is not in my power to give your Highness the satisfaction you require, by putting that man under confinement; all that our laws will authorize, in cases of this kind, is a prosecution

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secution for defamation, and recovery of damages; and in case of the parties not finding bail, he will be confined.

I have the honour to be,

With profound respect,

May it please your Highness,

Your Highnesses most sincere, most obedient,

And most humble servant,

Fort St. George,
September 22d. 1776.

GEORGE STRATTON.

(A true Copy)

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

Translate of a Letter from the Nabob to Governor Stratton, dated and received 22d September, 1776.

Received over-land by Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

In order to shew you and all the world the villainy of Mr. Randall, and his malignant intention of defaming my family, I send you enclosed the affidavits of some European gentlemen, together with the affidavits of others sworn to before the Mayor. I entreat to know what justice and satisfaction you can give me and my family upon this occasion? I beg you will write to me soon. I could send you abundance of other attestations to the wickedness and villainy of Mr. Randall.—What can I say more?

(A true Copy)

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

Deposition

Deposition of Muttee Kistnah.

Received over-land by Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Muttee Kistnah, Inhabitant of Sadrafs, now serving his Highness the Nabob of the Carnatick, deposeth and saith.

That about six weeks ago, Master Randall came to him in the office, and having taken him aside, said, that he had received a letter from Lord North, and requested him to communicate the same to the Nabob Ameer ul Omrah Behadar. This deponent delivered Mr. Randall's message to his master; his Excellency ordered that Mr. Randall should be brought into his presence; Mr. Randall being admitted, the Nabob gave orders to this deponent to stand at a distance, saw Mr. Randall reading a letter to the Nabob, he was not near enough to hear the contents, but he could perceive that the Nabob smiled; after which Mr. Randall returned from the Nabob, seemingly much pleased.

A few days after, Mr. Randall came again to acquaint the Nabob, that he had received a letter from Mr. Robinson; he was again admitted to the Nabob's presence, and having, in the sight of this deponent, as before, read a letter, he returned well satisfied.

Some days after this, Mr. Randall informed this deponent, that he had in his possession a letter from Sir Elijah Impey, directed to the Nabob Ameer ul Omrah, and striking his hand upon the outside of his pocket, as an indication of the letter being there.

He declared, that if the Nabob would give him a sum of money, he would deliver the letter, but upon no other terms; this deponent not crediting Mr. Randall's assertion, did not at that time deliver the letter to his Excellency.

About a week ago, Mr. Randall came in the evening, and declared to this deponent, that if the Nabob Ameer ul Omrah Behaudar did not immediately give him money, he would ruin his reputation and character both in England and in the Carnatick.

This

This deponent acquainted the Nabob with what Mr. Randall had threatened; to which the Nabob replied, I am not to be intimidated, he may act as he pleases.

MUTTEE KISTNAH.

Sworn to before me, this 20th September, 1776,

JOHN TURING,

Mayor of Madrafs.

(A true copy)

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

Deposition of Alavel Cawn.

Received over-land by Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Alavel Cawn, Seapoy in the service of his Highness the Nabob of the Carnatick, deposeeth and saith, that on Monday the 16th of September, about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, he being then on duty, as centry, at the garden gate, saw Dervash Mahomed, commandant, conversing with Mr. Randall, late in his Highness's service, in the garden of the Nabob, Ameer ul Omrah Bahauder.

Sworn to, this 20th September, 1776,

The mark † of Alavel Cawn.

before me,

JOHN TURING,

Mayor of Madrafs.

(A true copy)

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

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Deposition


Deposition of Dervash Mahomed.

Received over-land by Lieutenant- Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Dervash Mahomed, commandant, maketh oath and faith, that on Monday the 16th of September, about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, he, the said Dervash Mahomed, was going towards the office to speak with Muttee Kistnah, Dubash to his Excellency Ameer ul Omrah Bahauder; near the office he met Mr. Randall, who taking him familiarly by the hand, enquired after his health, and leading this deponent to another part of the garden, addressed him in the following terms; I have something to say to you, which you must swear to keep secret; very much surprised at such a request, this deponent replied, how can I make such a promise, before I know on what subject you are going to speak? Mr. Randall more than once repeated his former request, but finding this deponent inflexible, he at length said, if you will come with me into the fort, and confirm by oath whatever I shall say, you shall be handsomely rewarded; this deponent returned for answer, that he would not accept of any thing, nor would he swear to any thing that he was not perfectly acquainted with; to which Mr. Randall, seemingly in great confusion replied, if you will not go with me to the fort, you must at least keep this conversation an inviolable secret. This deponent imagining it to be some affair in which Mr. Randall only was concerned, never mentioned a word of the matter, until he heard from publick report, that the said Mr. Randall had accused his Excellency Ameer ul Omrah Bahauder of an intention to assassinate Lord Pigot; he then, as in duty bound, repeated to his Excellency the above related conversation, which passed on the 16th instant between him and Mr. Randall. This conversation passed in the English language, with which this deponent is but imperfectly acquainted as yet; he can safely declare, that words to this effect passed between him and Mr. Randall, on the day time, and place aforesaid; and this deponent is ready to satisfy by oath all and every part of this deposition, according to the forms prescribed by his religion, and the customs of his country.

Sworn to this 20th September, 1776,

before me,

The Mark  of Dervash Mahomed.

JOHN TURING,

Mayor of Madrafs.

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

Deposition of Shaick Imam.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777. |

Shaick Imam, Jemedar in the service of his Highness the Nabob of Carnatic, deposeth and saith, that on Monday the 16th of September, about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, he saw Dervash Mahomed, Commandant, conversing with Mr. Randall, late in his Highness's service, in the garden of the Nabob Ameer ul Omrah Behauder.

Sworn to, this 20th September, 1776,

The Mark † of Shaick Imam.

before me,

JOHN TURING,

Mayor of Madrafs.

(A true copy)

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

Deposition of Selyman Cawn,

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Selyman Cawn, Seapoy in the service of his Highness the Nabob of the Carnatic, deposeth and saith, that on Monday the 16th of September, about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, he being then on duty, as centry, at the garden gate, saw Dervash Mahomed, Commandant, conversing with Mr. Randall, late in his Highness's service, in the garden of the Nabob Ameer ul Omrah Bahauder.

Sworn to, this 20th September, 1776,

before me,

The mark † of Selyman Cawn.

JOHN TURING,

Mayor of Madrafs.

(A true copy)

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

Deposition

Deposition of Henry Norris,

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

I Henry Norris, Factor, in the Honourable East-India Company's service, do make oath and swear, that on or about the hour of nine or ten in the forenoon of Saturday the 14th Day of September, as I was passing through the Nabob's garden, I heard Mr. Randall call out to Ameer ul Omrah Behauder, on which the said Ameer ul Omrah stopped his carriage; Mr. Randall then asked the said Ameer ul Omrah, in a strong tone of voice, if his business was settled, or if he was to be put off any longer, or words to that effect; on which the said Ameer ul Omrah replied, go Sir, I will have nothing to do with you business, apply to Abdul Rasheed Cawn, the Nabob's Dewan, or words to that purport; on this Mr. Randall retorted in a passionate tone of voice, and using violent gestures, if my business is not settled to-night, I must settle it myself; from which I concluded, in my own mind, that he was resolved on some extraordinary act, and that he meant to intimidate the said Nabob Ameer ul Omrah, and I could not help observing to the said Ameer ul Omrah, that he the said Mr. Randall appeared reduced to despair.

HENRY NORRIS.

Sworn to, this 21st September, 1776,

before me,

JOHN TURING,

Mayor of Madras.

(A true copy)

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

Deposition

*Deposition of Charles Darke, received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper,
30th March, 1777.*

Mr. Randall called at my house on Wednesday the 18th instant, and informed me of an affidavit which he had made before the Mayor, purporting that the Nabob Ameer Ul Omrah Bahauder, second son to the Nabob of the Carnatic, had endeavoured to persuade him to murder Lord Pigot, at the time his Lordship was Governor of Fort St. George; and added, that he was very glad he had not seen his Lordship at the Mount before he had made the above-mentioned affidavit. In the course of conversation, before he quitted the room, he told me that *he had seen* Lord Pigot at the Mount every day for a week past; I asked him if he dined with him at Major Horne's, he answered in the negative, but that he had seen him every day at Mr. Monckon's, where his Lordship came to drink tea. These words, or words to the like effect, passed between me and the above-mentioned Mr. Randall, at my house in St. Thomy-street, in Fort St. George, on Wednesday the 18th day of September, 1776, on or about eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

CHARLES DARKE.

Sworn to, before me, the
19th September, 1776,

JOHN TURING,
Mayor of Madras.

(A true Copy)

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

*Declaration of Sir Robert Fletcher, received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel
Capper, 30th March, 1777.*

When I was on my voyage in the Salisbury to this Settlement, I received a letter from Mr. William Randall, who I believe came out clandestinely in that ship. The contents of the letter were an attempt to impose upon me, by assurances which he therein gave me, that he was sent out and employed by high authority at home, to execute secret services at the different Presidencies; and he added, that he could be of great service to me if I would then engage him in my interest.

(A true Copy)

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

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Letter

Letter from Mr. Bird to Sir Robert Fletcher.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

DEAR SIR,

I perfectly well remember the surprize you expressed on board the Salisbury, at having received a letter from Mr. William Randall, a passenger, wherein he mentions his being sent out by the Government to visit the different Settlements of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, and his tendering his service to you ; from his situation he flattered himself he might be of some use. You could not help being astonished at the contents of the afore-mentioned letter, and wished to know my sentiments of the man ; and I think you further asked me, if I thought the man was in his mind ? To the truth of the above I am ready to declare upon oath, should there appear any necessity.

I am, DEAR SIR,

With perfect esteem,

Garden-House,
September 21, 1776.

Your most humble servant,

ROB. SMITH BIRD.

To General Sir Robert Fletcher.

(A true Copy)

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

Extract of General Letter from George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Esquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, and George Mackay, Esquires ; dated Fort St. George, 24th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Par. 3. With respect to Tanjore, a fortress which we consider, from its situation and other circumstances, of the utmost importance, we beg leave

to refer your Honours to the Minutes of Consultation, to shew you that we had no information of any kind respecting the works, military stores, or magazines, during the government of Lord Pigot; we were even told that all the cannon had been carried off by the Nabob's orders, though upwards of one hundred have been since returned to us; we are therefore to inform your Honours, that all those matters have come under our consideration, as will appear by the returns of guns, stores, ammunition, and provision, that now wait on you numbers in the packet.

4. Being desirous of getting every information relative to this fortress, we called upon Major Stevens to state to the Chief Engineer in a memorial what was necessary to be done; a copy of which comes a number † in the Packet. We have also appointed an Engineer and Assistant to reside at Tanjore, from whom we have received the most useful lights to guide us in our conduct. We shall only here observe, that our views will be confined to render it one of the strongest country forts in the Carnatic; and this we are advised may be done with little expense: we shall also order provision to be made of fascines and gabions at Tanjore for the temporary repairs, in case of any sudden emergency; a precaution that in our opinion ought ever to be taken in fortified places.

5. We have the pleasure to acquaint you, that the Nabob has punctually performed the engagements he entered into for the payment of 8,71,666 pagodas, 24 fanams, from 1st May 1775 to the 30th of April last; and that Kists have been settled for the monthly current expenses on his account.

6. In the course of this year the Nabob has paid to his private creditors dividends to the amount of 20 per cent. and we have reason to think, if peace continue in the Carnatic, that the whole of the debts will soon be discharged.

10. We received application from Captain Robert Wood, late Town Major, for leave to resign your service; we declined at the time accepting of his commission, but permitted him to go to England; Lord Pigot has since desired he may be permitted to carry his dispatches, and he accordingly proceeds upon the Grenville.

† See Vol. I. page 544.

14. As we were closing this dispatch, an affair was communicated to us by Sir Edward Hughes, which, from the justice we think due to the character of the Nabob's family, and in order to prevent, as far as we can, the bad effects of an iniquitous design in prejudicing the opinion of the public, we think it necessary to animadvert on at large.

15. On the 16th of this month Sir Edward Hughes wrote us a letter, representing that Lord Pigot had again claimed the protection of his flag, in consequence of an affidavit of one William Randall, which declared, that there had been a design against his Lordship's life; a copy of the affidavit was likewise enclosed to us, and it goes a number in the packet. On the evening of the same day we received a letter from the Nabob, representing, in very strong terms, that Sir Edward Hughes having communicated to him the affidavit of the above-mentioned William Randall, by which the honour of his son Ameer ul Omrah, and of course of his whole family, was so iniquitously impeached, he desired that we should immediately seize the person of William Randall, as many Europeans and others in his service could prove him a bad man, and guilty of the basest acts of imposition, such as forging letters from Lord North and Mr. Robinson, and that his affidavit was dictated by revenge and wickedness, in consequence of dismissal from his service.

16. Though, from the first perusal of the affidavit, we could not but observe how strongly it marked the principles and designs of the author, and though, from the Nabob's information, we might think ourselves justified as a Government to take cognizance of the information; yet the weight which Lord Pigot seemed to rest upon it, by his complaint to Sir Edward Hughes, and the delicacy with which we ever wish to proceed in matters that regard personal justice, these considerations prevented our giving the Nabob the satisfaction he required.

17. We have since received a second letter from the Nabob on the subject, enclosing several affidavits of Europeans and others taken before the Mayor, which carry proofs of the infamy of the accuser, and the very iniquitous injustice of the accusation; we likewise transmit your Honours copies of those affidavits. Sir Robert Fletcher has informed us that Mr. Randall came to India in the same ship with him last year; and he has made a declaration before us, which strongly marks the character of Mr. Randall as an impostor, and which tends no less to distinguish the readiness of his talent

talent at mischievous fiction, than the baseness of his principles. The purport of Sir Robert's declaration is, that some time after they had been on board of the Salisbury, Mr. Randall addressed him a letter, in which he set forth, that notwithstanding appearances, he was sent out and employed by high authority at home, to execute secret services at the different Presidencies; and he added, that he could be of great service to Sir Robert, if he would then engage him in his interest. Sir Robert observes further, that he mentioned the receipt of this letter to a Mr. Bird, Surgeon of the Salisbury, who remembers that Sir Robert expressed his astonishment at the contents of it, and wished to know his opinion of the man. Mr. Bird's letter to Sir Robert on this subject is a number in the Packet.

18. But what appears to us to set the falsity and villainy of Mr. Randall's information against Ameer ul Omrah in the clearest point of view is the affidavit itself, by which he would make it appear, that he was possessed of the secret of a design against Lord Pigot's life, and yet concealed the intention for more than eight months; nor did he ever communicate the design till he was dismissed the service of the Nabob, and 'till his Lordship was out of reach of all danger. He swears expressly, that Ameer ul Omrah told him, "That he had or would engage one Comrah, a Dubashi, to kill the said Lord Pigot, by causing poison to be put in his food;" and yet, notwithstanding this pretended knowledge of a felonious design to poison Lord Pigot, he concealed that knowledge from his Lordship; so that by the same oath with which he would establish the belief of the felonious design to take away the life of his Lordship, he proves himself guilty of misprision of a felonious intention, by not discovering it immediately so as to endeavour to prevent it. In another part of his affidavit he says, that from a conversation which passed between him and Comrah, he is convinced that Comrah was privy to the design of poisoning his Lordship; and yet Mr. Randall made then no discovery.

19. We would not dwell so long on this subject, did we not feel so sensibly in our own breasts the perfect atrociousness of an attempt to fix at this time, without evidence, so unmerited, and so heinous a charge, upon any of the Nabob's family. *a family distinguished amongst the princes of India for an abhorrence of such wickedness.* If it were even admitted, contrary to truth, and the experience on which that truth is founded, that such an inhuman intention could ever possess the mind of the Nabob's son, is there

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a person

a person the least versed in the customs and manners of this country, who can imagine, that the execution of such a work would be trusted to an European? or that the design would be communicated and the execution delayed for nine months? or that an European, with whom such a secret was lodged, would be dismissed with disgrace, so as to provoke him to discovery? But these are circumstances which shock belief, and it is impossible to explode, with too much severity, an accusation, so baneful to the peace and honour of an individual, and that might, in its consequences, prove so hurtful to the public repose.

20. We have only further to observe to your Honours, that we will endeavour to give the Nabob every satisfaction in our power; and at the same time to request you will be pleased to give every attention to the papers in the packet on this subject, and particularly to the deposition of Moodie Kistnah, who swears that Mr. Randall threatened Ameer ul Omrah, if he did not give him a sum of money, to ruin his reputation and character, as well in Europe as in the Carnatic.

21. Colonel Capper having requested our permission to go to England for a short time to settle his private family concerns, we have complied with his request. From the good opinion we entertain of this gentleman, we have thought him a very proper person to be charged with our dispatches to your Honours by his Majesty's ship the Swallow to Suez, from whence he will proceed over land; having signified this to Colonel Capper, he very readily offered his services on this occasion; we beg leave strongly to recommend him to you, and to request you will permit him to return to the important station he holds in your service.

22. Mr. James Dighton, a gentleman of good character and abilities, having heard of our intention to send a packet to your Honours over-land, voluntarily offered himself to accompany Colonel Capper, and we have accordingly accepted of his services, to guard against any accident that may happen to our packet, in case of the death or indisposition of Colonel Capper.

23. We hope your Honours will allow us to recommend this gentleman to you, being convinced, from the knowledge he has obtained of the Persian

fian and other Eastern languages, that he may be a very useful servant to you at this Presidency.

We are,

HONOURABLE,

Fort St. George,
24th September, 1776.

Your faithful humble servants,

GEO. STRATTON,
HENRY BROOKE,
ROB. FLETCHER,
CHARLES FLOYER,
ARCHDALE PALMER,
GEO. MACKAY.

Extract of Letter from Lord Pigot to the Court of Directors, dated St. Thomas's Mount, 26th September, 1776,

Received over-land by Mr. Dalrymple, the 20th April, 1777.

7. There comes a number in the packet the affidavit of Mr. Randall, an officer in the Nabob's service; he was a stranger to me till the day he gave that affidavit, but having sacrificed his views in this country, he goes a passenger on the Grenville, and I beg leave to recommend him to your notice. Great pains have been taken to invalidate this gentleman's affidavit; amongst the rest, much stress has been laid on a loan of six hundred pagodas, made him by Mr. Monckton a few days after the affidavit was made, who on this occasion has thought it necessary to make a deposition of all the circumstances relating to it, which comes also a number in the packet.

8. Major Horne, by order of the gentlemen in the fort, having informed me, that any of the Company's servants whom I thought proper might go to England with my dispatches for your Honours, I made choice of Captain Wood,

Wood, the Town Major, who will deliver you this letter. This gentleman has ever conducted himself much to my satisfaction; but his spirited and proper conduct on the parade the night Colonel Stuart made me a prisoner, well entitles him to your particular favour. I have engaged to pay Captain Abercromby eight hundred pounds for the passengers I have put on board his ship, and I hope your Honours will please to discharge the same.

9. Sir Edward Hughes purposing to send the Swallow sloop of war to Suez about the 2d or 3d. of the next month it appearing to me and the other gentlemen of the Council so essential, that you should not only have the earliest intelligence, but the fullest information of the situation of your affairs, that we would not avoid desiring Mr. Dalrymple to proceed that way to England, which he will do accordingly.

I am,

HONOURABLE,

St. Thomas's Mount,
26th September, 1776.

Your faithful humble servant,

P I G O T.

Copy of Mr. Randall's Affidavit, as communicated by the Majority, is entered on Consultation the 19th September, 1776, folio 593; but in the Copy transmitted by Lord Pigot, after the words, ["That the deponent had always intentions of making this deposition," is the following paragraph.]

The deponent further maketh oath, and says, that the said Ameer ul Omrah has often engaged the said deponent to go to England by the ships of this season, and within these twelve days past ordered the deponent to take a passage on the ship Grenville, for the purpose of exposing to the English Nation the weakness of his elder brother, commonly called Omdat ul Omrah; saying to the deponent, he, the Ameer ul Omrah, was fit only
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to succeed his father, the Nabob Mahomed Ali Cawn, in the government of the Carnatick; and that the said Ameer ul Omrah has often declared his brother Omdat ul Omrah was a rogue, that the Tinnevely, or some other country, was sufficient for him to command; and at the same time the said Ameer ul Omrah declared to the deponent, that his elder brother was a beast, and (to use his own words) "my brother lay with man and dog."

Madrafs,
15th September, 1776.

(Signed)

WILLIAM RANDALL.

Sworn before me,

(Signed)

JOHN TURING, Mayor.

Enclosure in Mr. DALRYMPLE's Packet.

Received over-land, 20th April, 1777.

The Deposition of EDWARD MONCKTON.

I Edward Monckton make oath and say, that upon my arrival at the house my family lives in at the Mount, on Sunday the 15th September, 1776, at a little after one o'clock (it being my practice ever since the confinement of Lord Pigot to go to Choultry Plain in the morning, and return at noon) I found the company assembled in the hall, waiting for dinner, and among the rest I observed Capt. Randall. I had dined in the company of that Gentleman once at Mr. Oakeley's upon his first arrival in India, about fifteen or sixteen months ago; but as I did not remember to have been in his company either before or since that time, I imagined that he had been to see Lord Pigot, and invited by him to dine with us; and I entered into a general conversation with him and the rest of the company, 'till he had an opportunity of taking me aside, when he in-
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formed me, that he had just been with Lord Pigot, and informed him of his having something of a very black nature to communicate ; that his Lordship had referred him to me. He then pulled out of his pocket a paper, and gave it to me, and declared, that he was ready to go immediately to Mr. Stratton, and make oath to the truth of it; and then, in the most publick manner, delivered a copy of it to Sir Edward Hughes. I told him, that I much doubted of the legality of an oath taken before him, as I did not imagine that he was properly authorized to administer an oath ; that the Mayor appeared to me to be the only person now that could with propriety take depositions ; he thereupon told me, that he would go before him that afternoon. : we were then called to dinner, and after dinner I desired him to let Mr. Russell see the paper, which he readily did. Mr. Russell, after reading it, took me aside, and told me that he wished that Mr. Randall had been more definite with respect to time. I set forth to him the great impropriety in our interfering in the least ; to which he acquiesced, and Mr. Randall took leave of us. The next morning, I believe about ten o'clock, Mr. Randall came to me at my house in Choultry Plain, and put into my hand the same paper properly attested, and told me that he had been before the Mayor the evening before, and had sworn to the truth of it : he then set forth to me, that he had just resigned the Nabob's service, and, as he had of his own free-will stood forth, he hoped his Lordship would befriend him, if, upon enquiry, he should find him deserving ; and that Lord Pigot would make use of his interest with Capt. Abercromby, of the ship Grenville, to procure him a passage to England. The same afternoon he went out to see Lord Pigot, and his Lordship not only promised to procure him a passage, but also to give him a letter to the Chairman of the Directors.

The 19th I received the following Letter from him.

DEAR SIR,

I beg you will present the enclosed to Lord Pigot ; it is to request, that Lord Pigot will recommend me generally to the protection of the Directors in his Letter, and that he will be pleased to give me another Letter,

Letter, 'addressed to them, to prove my identity.' It is very painful to me to be under the necessity of asking of you *the loan of six hundred pagodas*; I will most certainly repay you that sum on my return, and to-morrow I intend to pay my compliments to his Lordship.

I am, DEAR SIR,

Your obedient humble servant,

St. Thomé, 19th.

W. RANDALL.

Pray trouble yourself to seal the enclosed; I have no materials within reach.

My answer on a scrap of paper was as follows.

DEAR SIR,

I will do the needful for you, and as soon I can scrape together the money you want, you shall have it.

I am your most obedient,

EDWD. MONCKTON.

Sunday following, having got together the money, I wrote him on another scrap of paper the following note.

DEAR SIR,

You may have the money when you will please to send for it. Lord Pigot has spoke to Capt. Abercromby about your passage. I am

Your most obedient servant,

EDWD. MONCKTON.

And

And the next morning he sent his Dubash with his compliments, and the following receipt, and received from my people 600 pagodas.

" I promise to pay to the Honourable Edward Monckton, or order, the sum of six hundred pagodas, value received.

"WM. RANDALL."

" Madrafs, September 23d, 1776."

I further do declare, that I never had any intercourse, either directly or indirectly, with Mr. Randall; neither do I believe any of Lord Pigot's friends had before Sunday the 15th September, 1776, when he shewed us the paper that he afterwards deposed to; neither has he ever had any sum of money to my knowledge either promised or given him.

(Signed) ED. MONCKTON.

Sworn to in Court, this
26th Day of September 1776.

(Signed)

JAMES TAYLOR,

REGISTER.

Enclosure in Mr. DALRYMPLE's Packet.

Received over-land, 20th April, 1777.

The Information of CLAUD RUSSELL, Esq.

This informant saith, that on Sunday the 25th, being at the Mount, Major Horne, Commanding Officer there, gave him to peruse an order he (the Major) had received that morning, signed George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay; and that the last paragraph of the said order was in these words: "*As the last resource, in case of an attempt to rescue Lord Pigot, his life must answer it; and this you will signify to him.*"

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This informant further saith, that the same order was some days afterwards produced to Sir Edward Hughes, the Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships in India, in presence of Lord Pigot, the Honourable Edward Monckton, Alexander Dalrymple, and this informant.

Madrafs,
31st August, 1776.

Sworn to before me,

(Signed)

JOHN TURING,

MAYOR.

Enclosure in Mr. DALRYMPLE's Packet.

Received over-land, 20th April, 1777.

On Saturday the 24th instant, between eight and nine o'clock at night, intelligence having been brought to the Governor's Garden-house, where I then was, that Lord Pigot had been carried off a prisoner to the Mount, I immediately hastened to the fort, accompanied by J. M. Stone, Esq. where I found the town in confusion, and was told, that Mr. Stratton and Sir Robert Fletcher, with others, had taken possession of the Council-Room. On drawing near the Parade, it being moon-light, I observed it was crowded with officers and others, as well Europeans as Blacks, and a number of carriages at the Fort Square Gate. Meeting soon afterwards with the Fort Major, Capt. Wood, he informed me that those Gentlemen had declared themselves the Administration, and that he had been sent to the Main Guard for endeavouring to keep the troops to their duty. I then directed Lieutenant Pendergast, the Fort Adjutant, who had just joined us, to go to the Officer of the Main Guard (Capt. Adair) and tell him that it was my orders, in the absence of Lord Pigot, to have his men stand immediately to their arms; but observing that he (Capt. Adair) hesitated, I went myself to him, and repeated my orders in person; telling him, that he should reflect on the consequences of a refusal, as in the absence

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of Lord Pigot, whose guard he commanded, I must be considered his commanding officer. He (Captain Adair) still hesitated, and muttering something about the Commander in Chief, I asked him, if he had received any contradictory orders from the Commander in Chief, and by whom they were delivered ; Captain Adair replied, in a confused manner, that Colonel Stuart had *delivered him orders*. During this a crowd of Officers had assembled around us, and on my insisting with Captain Adair that my orders should be complied with, Lieutenant-Colonel Edington, Adjutant-General, and Captain Barclay, came up to me, and, with great professions of respect for my person, recommended to me as most prudent to go to my house. I told them my duty called me where I was, or words to that effect ; and in the mean while, whether by Captain Adair's orders or not I do not know, great part of the guard stood to their arms ; and as I was advancing to get in front of them, Colonel Stuart came up to me seemingly much agitated, saying, you must go with me to Council, or *before* Council : my answer was, that I was not under his orders, but that he at that time was under mine, and that I should certainly not go where he directed, or words to that effect. Colonel Stuart upon this seized me by the breast of my coat, calling out for *Orderlies* ; at the same time Lieutenant-Colonel Edington and Captain Barclay each seized me by an arm, and these Gentlemen were forcibly dragging me along, when I called to the Captain of the Main Guard for assistance, but in vain, though I did observe several of the Grenadiers advance from the ranks towards us, which seemed to alarm Colonel Stuart so much, that he quitted his hold of me, and run back to push them into the ranks with oaths and threats. After effecting this, he (Colonel Stuart) returned to assist Colonel Edington and Captain Barclay, by laying hold of my wrist, and calling for an orderly Serjeant to push me behind. Continuing to make all the resistance in my power, I was by main force dragged by Colonel Stuart, Lieutenant-Colonel Edington, and Captain Barclay, with the assistance of the orderly Serjeant, to the Council Room, where were sitting George Stratton, Esquire, Sir Robert Fletcher, Francis Jourdan, George Mackay, Charles Floyer, Henry Brooke, and Archdale Palmer, Esquires, and Mr. Henry Norris attending. Colonel Stuart led me in by the arm, and shutting the door, he addressed himself to the above Gentlemen, saying, that I had so strong an arm, that he was out of breath, and must beg time to recover it before he could explain the cause of my being before them. Upon this I required to know whether I was a prisoner or not ; Sir Robert Fletcher (I think it was) answered, that I was not a prisoner ; and I was therefore going to retire, but

but upon opening the door, Colonel Stuart run up to me, and flapped it to. Upon my representing the indecency of this behaviour to Mr. Stratton, who seemed to be the President, the Colonel pleaded in excuse, that he wished me to be present while he related to the Council (for such he called them) what had passed. He (Colonel Stuart) then dictated, while Mr. Jourdan minuted a declamation about my exciting mutiny, and related the circumstances of his seizing me with tolerable accuracy, that he makes no mention of the violent and powerful assistance given him by Lieutenant-Colonel Edington, Captain Barclay, and the Orderly. When the Colonel had finished, Mr. Stratton asked what I had to say in answer; to which I replied, that I denied their authority, and should say nothing, or words to that effect. Mr. Mackay and Mr. Jourdan then went round to the opposite side of the table, and after some conversation with Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Floyer, Sir Robert proposed, before I should retire, that a Letter, which would shortly be sent me, might be read to me; but this I objected to, declaring that I would not listen to any thing at that Board, whose authority I denied. Mr. Stratton, however, rising up, began to read a paper, supposed to be the Letter in question, but stopped, upon my calling to him by name, that I would not hear him. Sir Robert then moved, that the contents should be told me, which Mr. Stratton then declared to be, that they had suspended me the Company's Service; and orders were given, in my hearing, to Colonel Stuart, to declare the same immediately on the Parade: I thereupon retired, and immediately returned to the Governor's Gardens.

CLAUD RUSSELL.

Madras, 31st August, 1776.

Sworn to before me,

(Signed)

JOHN TURING,

MAYOR.

Letter

Letter from Lord Pigot to the Governor-General and Council at Bengal,
dated at St. Thomas's Mount, 29th August, 1776.

Received over-land by Mr. Dalrymple, 20th April, 1777.

*To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Esquire, Governor-General, &c. Council,
of Bengal.*

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

Major Horne having this afternoon received permission for me to write to you in his presence, I think it proper to acquaint your Honour, &c. that having found it expedient, with the advice of my Council, to order Sir Robert Fletcher under arrest, for being concerned in circulating in the garrison letters of a seditious nature. Colonel James Stuart, the next officer in rank, was appointed to the chief command of the troops. This Officer, who dined with me in the Fort at his own desire, was invited by me to supper at the Company's Garden House; which invitation he accepted, and at the same time acquainting me that he had no conveyance, requested I would take him with me in my chaise. I that afternoon desired the Gentlemen of Council to meet me in the Fort, and I directed the Secretary to write to Colonel Stuart also to attend, where I shewed him the Commission of Government; and he then declared, upon his honour, that he would that night issue to the out-garrisons the general orders of Sir Robert Fletcher's being under arrest, if the Tappies were detained, and they were detained accordingly.

I then took Colonel Stuart into my chaise, and when I was upon the island, something more than half a mile from the Fort, my horses were stopped by Colonel Edington, the Adjutant-General, with a party of Seapoys; at this instant of time Captain Lyfaught presented himself at that side of my chaise on which I was with a pistol in his hand, and Colonel Stuart seizing me by the arm, said, "Go out, Sir," and delivered me to the charge of Captain Lyfaught, who conducted me to a post-chaise, and brought me prisoner to the Mount, where I was delivered into the custody of Major Horne, who at the same time received from Captain Lyfaught the accompanying orders, which are the only orders Major Horne acquaints me he has liberty to give me a copy of.

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I remained in this confinement, from the Saturday night, the 24th August, to Tuesday the 27th, when, between eleven and twelve at night, Colonel Edington arrived with fresh orders for my removal; I will leave other men to say how patiently I bore my confinement, and with what propriety I conducted myself upon Colonel Edington's refusing to shew his orders, or to make known to me whither he was to conduct me. I thought it necessary to declare, that I would not trust myself with a traitor, who had made me prisoner, and that I would resist whilst life remained in me. Major Horne's prudence, and Colonel Edington's reflection, stopt this violence proceeding further; and receiving a visit from Sir Edward Hughes in the morning, I thought it prudent to demand the protection of the King's flag, and Sir Edward Hughes has in consequence demanded a safe conduct for me to his ship.

I have recommended to all the civil servants of the Company whom I have seen, to continue in the execution of their duty to the Company in their several stations.

I am,

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

St. Thomas's Mount,
29th August, 1776.

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed)

P I G O T.

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General

General Letter from the Majority of the Council at Fort St. George, dated
26th September, 1776,

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

*To the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Com-
pany of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies.*

HONOURABLE SIRS,

Par. 1. We this day received a letter from the Nabob, enclosing an affidavit of Samuel Mills, late a Lieutenant in his Highness's service, which he has requested may be communicated to you.

Par. 2. In our letter of the 24th instant, we gave you our sentiments at large on the subject of the deposition of William Randall; we shall therefore confine ourselves at present to an assurance to your Honours, that we are firmly persuaded, not only from the affidavit itself, and our knowledge of the Nabob and his family, but likewise from the nature of the circumstances that have since been brought to view, that Mr. Randall has been actuated to this conduct by such principles as must appear atrocious to the eyes of all mankind. Copies of the Nabob's letter to us of our reply, and of Samuel Mills's deposition, now wait on your Honours enclosed.

Par. 3. We have given orders to Captain Abercromby, Commander of your Ship the Grenville, not to receive Mr. Randall as passenger for England,

land, in order that the Nabob may be enabled to take such further measures as the law directs.

We are,

HONOURABLE,

Fort St. George,
26th September, 1776.

Your faithful humble servants,

GEO. STRATTON,
HENRY BROOKE,
ROB. FLETCHER,
CHARLES FLOYER.
ARCHDALE PALMER,
GEO. MACKAY.

Translate of a Letter from the Nabob to Governor Stratton, dated and received the 26th of September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

I have received your letter of the 22d September, in answer to two from me ; although I am obliged to you for them, yet they are not sufficiently satisfactory, considering the attention that is due to my honour and the honour of my family. Yourself, and the Gentlemen of Council, are the Managers here on the part of the Company ; and I, who am the friend of the Company and Nation, expect from you justice, and support of my honour and rights. Nothing but the punishment of Mr. Randall for his perjury, and the gross slander he has thrown on me and my family, will be a sufficient satisfaction to me. What can be a stronger proof of the truth of what I wrote to you regarding the villainy of Mr. Randall, than the affidavits of English gentlemen which I sent to you ? I intreat you to write these circumstances to the Court of Directors, and if the packet should be closed, that you will write them a separate letter. Although Mr. Randall's falsehood is evident on proof to all the English gentlemen at this place, yet there remains for me to have satisfaction in the manner I have written above. What can I say more ?

(A true Copy)

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

Letter

Letter to the Nabob, dated Fort St. George, 26th September, 1776,

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To the N A B O B.

I have had the honour to receive your Highness's letter of this day's date, enclosing me an affidavit of Samuel Mills, late Lieutenant in your Highness's service, sworn to before Mr. John Turing, Mayor of Madras.

The sentiments we have already expressed to the Company on the very extraordinary deposition of William Randall, and the disbelief which, from a perfect knowledge of your Highness and family, we naturally gave to that deposition, would, I am convinced, be a positive certainty to your Highness, that the Council and I conceived that act to have proceeded from the basest motives. But as your Highness has been pleased to communicate to me the declaration of Samuel Mills, I shall, agreeably to your desire, transmit a copy of it to the Company, who, I need not assure your Highness, are ever anxious and ever will exert themselves in the support of the honour and dignity of your Highness, and that of your family.

I have given orders to Captain Abercromby, Commander of the Company's ship Grenville, not to receive Mr. Randall as passenger for England, in order that your Highness may take such further measures as you may deem expedient on this occasion.

(A true Copy)

Fort St. George,
26th September, 1776.

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Deposition

Deposition of SAMUEL MILLS.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

I Samuel Mills, late Lieutenant in the service of his Highness the Nabob of the Carnatic, depose, that Mr. William Randall, late Captain in the said service, lived with me three months and upwards. That he, the said William Randall, came home one night, about the 15th of September, instant, seemingly very much vexed and disturbed in his mind, which he the said Randall said was occasioned by the Nabob not giving him money; he walked several times backwards and forwards in the room, and said, no honest man could live in this country; that it was to make money that every one came to this country, and that he would have his share of it somehow or other; he likewise said, that he had a very good head for forming, and that he would do something that would make his fortune, and that if it was in his power he would hang the Nabob, meaning, as this deponent believes, Nabob Ameer ul Omrah Behauder. This deponent saith, that the next morning at breakfast the said Randall wrote a paper, which he carried out of the house, and said he was taking it to Lord Pigot; he brought it back in the evening, and said he would carry it to John Turing. I saw it the next morning with the words at the bottom (as near as I can recollect) Sworn before me, John Turing.— I asked the said Randall what the paper meant, and he answered, something that would make his fortune; he then shewed me the contents, which much surprized me. I went that morning to the Nabob's, Ameer ul Omrah Bahauder, to acquaint him with what I had seen and heard, but could not be admitted to his presence 'till the 23d instant. This Deponent saith, that between the 17th and 23d instant, the said Randall received three chits or notes from Mr. Monckton; that this Deponent was at home when they were brought for the said Randall; and as there was not any one of them sealed,

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he took the liberty of reading them. The first was, as near as this Deponent recollects,—You shall have the needful, and as soon as I can scrape the money together, you shall have it :—the second,—The money is ready whenever you chuse to send for it, and we shall be glad to see you at the Mount ;—the third,—We shall be glad to see you in the morning at the Mount ; Lord Pigot has spoken to Captain Abercromby about your passage. This Deponent saith, that Mr. Randall told him that he should come out again to India in eleven months with his fortune made, and that he would be in the civil line. This Deponent saith, that his wife informed him that said Randall's Dubash brought some money to him.

SAMUEL MILLS.

Sworn to, this 25th September, 1776,
before me,

JOHN TURING,
Mayor of Madras.

(A true Copy)

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

DISSENT

D I S S E N T

Of one of the Aldermen of the Mayor's Court at Madrafs (Mr. George Smith) to the reconsidered Resolution of the Court, delivered on Monday the 2d of September, 1776, by a majority of 7 voices to 2, that the Court had not the authority of granting a Writ of Habeas Corpus, after it had been determined two days before, by 6 voices to 3, that such authority was vested in the Court; and in consequence thereof it was the public opinion, that the Court (which had met by adjournment on the 2d) would issue the Writ.

N.B. The Writ had been applied for on the Petition of the Governor, Lord Pigot, who had been seized by a military force, and detained a prisoner under the same force at St. Thomas's Mount.

I dissent, because the Habeas Corpus Act does expressly direct to bring, or to be brought, the body of the party so illegally committed, or restrained, unto or before Judges of the Court, *from which the said Writ shall issue*, or such other *persons* before whom the said Writ is made *returnable*, according to the command thereof.

Because I understand that the Supreme Court at Calcutta have always exercised the power of granting this Writ (for the relief of oppressed subjects in those provinces, and in furtherance of justice) though, on the perusal of their charter, I do not find that the authority for so doing is thereby expressly granted, but am sensible that the same is sufficiently implied.

Because I do not find in his Majesty's charter, by which this Court is established, or in the Book of Instructions which accompanied the same, any prohibition to this Court's granting a Writ of Habeas Corpus.

Because this Court, as I conceive, was instituted to grant relief to all suitors, especially British subjects in all civil causes, whether for the recovery of debts, or reparation of damages to parties injured in their property, liberty, or reputations.

Because,

Because the late Act of Parliament, for the better regulation of the affairs of the East-India Company, does in several clauses give very direct and important powers to this Court for the relief of the Company, and for bringing all such persons as are therein specified, to an account and to judgment, who shall or may be charged with such offences as are by the Act prohibited.

Because it appears to me but too evident, that the authority and justice of this Court may be easily frustrated and deluded, and the good intentions of the legislative authority, of the Crown, and of the Company, may easily be evaded, and the Act of Parliament, as well as the Charter itself, in many cases, become a dead letter, *Vox et præterea nihil*, if the Court has not the authority of granting Writs of Habeas Corpus, for the relief of such parties and witnesses as may be kept under restraint and confinement, by means which no authority less than his Majesty's Court of Record can remove.

Because, therefore, the authority of granting the Writ in question appears to me as incident to the constitution of this Court, for the due and effectual execution of the important ends for which it was appointed, the uninterrupted operation of which alone it is that will render it a blessing to these Settlements, as it ought to be.

Because, in many branches, the process which issues out of this Court, and has issued time out of mind (as well as out of the Mayor's Court at Calcutta, and at Bombay) is not authorized by any express words in the Charter, but has been adopted as a necessary and legal relief to the Suitors, particularly in granting warrants for the seizure of persons and effects upon the sea, and in any river which is a road, stead, or harbour, or any part thereof (and which in England belongs to the Court of Admiralty alone) has never been called in question, or if it has, the conduct of these Courts has been confirmed, though the authority in this instance is no more expressed in the Charter than it is in the case of a Habeas Corpus.

Because all the books of authority which I have had an opportunity of consulting, as far as the shortness of the time would permit me, Judge Blackstone, Serjeant Hawkins, and some others, speak of this Writ as a constitutional Writ, the great constitutional remedy to poor and rich; a Writ of Right, which may not be denied, and to which the subject is entitled, *ex debito justitiae*, grantable of common right to every man that is committed, or detained in prison,

prison, or otherwise restrained, though it be by command of the King, the Privy Council, or any other, as the most usual remedy by which a man is restored to his liberty ; for that the King (by his Courts) is at all times entitled to have an account why the liberty of any of his subjects is restrained, wherever that restraint may be inflicted.

Because it appears to me, that the refusal of this Writ (at the same time that it inflicts a heavy fine, no less than 500 l. on every Judge who refuses it, in case he is empowered to grant it, as I think that this Court is, at the same time that it tends to defeat and render abortive the course of justice, in respect to the causes of which the Court has cognizance) may totally disable the party applying for it to shew, either here or any where else, or to any higher Tribunal, whether there has not been a flagrant abuse of power (as is indeed strongly set forth in the Petition of the present Right Honourable Suitor) and whether that power has not been exercised in a manner totally repugnant to law and liberty.

Because with me, and I believe with many others, it is at least become a matter of doubt, from the very matter set forth in the Petition, and more particularly from the public acts which have followed the violences therein set forth, whether there does exist any other legal and regular authority or jurisdiction in this Settlement, from which relief can be obtained in the matter complained of, or in any the like cases ; and that therefore the effect of this Court's refusal will produce a failure of justice, which in any the smallest case, and to the poorest subject, should in my opinion be most carefully avoided ; and rather than consent to so deplorable a situation, I make no difficulty in declaring, that the Court, not so well informed, I readily confess, in regard to the express letter of the law, but guided by the rules and principles of justice, in this exercise of their judgment, should adopt that course which tends to the relief of the subject, and take upon themselves the hazard of its being found erroneous, rather than fall into the still greater error (as I well believe it is) of refusing that relief, to which, in my opinion, every suitor of this Court is entitled ; and if this opinion should hereafter be found erroneous, I have no doubt but that those, whose profession it is to form a better judgment in the case, will join with Sir Elijah Impey, in the report which he was pleased to give of the proceedings of the Mayor's Court at that place (in his speech to the first Grand Jury, which he had occasion to address at Calcutta) that though their proceedings had sometimes appeared to him a deviation from the course of administering justice, (which proceeded from the laudable motives of an easier and more speedy redress) it was no deviation from justice itself.

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And

And because of these reasons, and in conformity to the oath of an Alderman of this Court, which I have taken, "To do right to all manner of people, poor and rich, without fear or favour, according to the best of my knowledge," I beg leave to dissent to the Resolution of this Court of to-day.

(Signed)

GEO. SMITH.

Copy of a Letter from Lord Pigot to Sir Edward Hughes, Knight, Commodore and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships in the East-Indies.

Received over-land by Mr. Dalrymple, 20th April, 1777.

S I R,

I have read with great attention the extraordinary letter to you from Mr. Stratton, &c. dated the 4th of this month; and as I am persuaded your reply was very proper, I will presume to ask a copy thereof.

I must at this time take the liberty to repeat to you how essentially necessary it is that I should be released from the confinement I am under, as the second day in the next month is the day appointed by myself, and the rest of his Majesty's Justices, at the last Sessions of the Peace, Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery, held at Fort St. George on the 3d day of July last, and intimated in the precepts which were then directed to the Sheriff for summoning a Grand and Petty Jury to attend the Quarterly Court of the same Criminal Jurisdiction, appointed to be held by myself and others his Majesty's Justices on the second day of October next ensuing, as is expressed in the precepts so issued.

In making this representation to you, Sir, who are honoured with a Commission from his Majesty, for the express purpose of aiding and assisting the East-India Company, I have these very serious and important considerations in my mind; the indispensable obligation which I lay under, by the oaths of my allegiance and of my office, for the due and faithful execution of justice, as President of the Criminal Courts constituted by the Royal Charter for the benefit of the Company's Settlements upon this Coast, and which expressly directs, that Quarter Sessions of the Peace shall be held four times in the year, which shall also be a Court of Record, in the nature of a Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery, whereof the Governor or President of Fort St. George, or, in his absence, the Senior of the Council there residing, is expressly directed to be one.

The

The great hazard which may, and I apprehend will arise to the public, and the East-India Company, of a forfeiture of the Charter of Justice, for the due execution of which, if I do not forget, the East-India Company have pledged themselves to his Majesty, by an indenture duly executed by them, and entered of record in his courts at Westminster, upon their application for the aid and protection of the royal authority to the security and prosperity of their Settlements, and of the people of the several nations there resident; from a failure of which, whether arising from a disregard of the essential rules fixt and established, or other wilful impediment and irregularity, and still more so, if, from a total subversion and violent usurpation of the powers and authority thereby limited and established, the functions thereof should be assumed by persons who were regularly disqualified, and have since also by their own crimes rendered themselves doubly so, and indeed unworthy to execute any of those offices, duties, or functions required by the charter; and lastly, to prevent the stream of public justice from being contaminated in the course of its legal and most essential authority, the criminal jurisdiction, which has been granted to the East-India Company for the trial and punishment of all offenders and offences (high treason excepted) had committed or done, or to be had, committed or done, within the town of Madra's, Fort St. George, or within any of the factories or places subordinate thereunto; a duty and trust of such high importance to the lives and liberties of all manner of persons, poor and rich, that any unauthorized execution thereof cannot be even attempted, without the utmost degree of temerity and presumption; and it is necessary to remember, that the least doubt or suspicion of the legality of the proceedings in this high department is sufficient to impeach the same.

Having represented this to you, I would have those who may have any intentions of taking upon themselves what will prove a high exaggeration of the guilt of their precedent conduct and actions, to think seriously of the consequences which will befall them, by sitting in the seat of judgment, and deciding on the laws of their country, in cases of life and liberty, under an authority, the truth and legality of which every man required to appear, either ministerially or judicially, may claim an undoubted right to question; and every criminal may impeach, even from the very circumstance of my present situation, and the attempt made for disqualifying my brethren, the other justices and judges, who, by adhering to their duty to the East-India Company, as they have done, do justly retain the due and legal exercise of the authority vested in the President or Governor and Council of Fort St. George by the royal charter, which repeatedly and clearly directs and enjoins, that the courts of justice, civil as well as criminal, which are thereby instituted,

tuted, cannot be held without the President or Governor, or, in his absence, the Senior of the Council then resident; for the unpeached observance of which I will refer you to those persons themselves, by whose means I am at this time prevented from executing the duty of President and Governor of Fort St. George; and yet, Sir, you will permit me to bring to your remembrance, that in the proclamation, which Mr. George Stratton and others his associates have dared to publish and announce, in the name of his Majesty and the English Nation, they have had the folly or temerity to appeal to the Royal Charter in support of that resolution, on which they found their whole conduct in the forming and executing their violent measures, "That a majority of the Council have a right to decide all questions, without the concurrence of the President." And as I have no doubt but that I have now satisfied you, that the Royal Charter, on the authority of which the legality of the criminal as well as civil jurisdiction alone rests, and can have any operation. I will not take up more of your time than again to repeat, how essential it is for the administration of publick justice, that I myself, and the other three Members of the Council, who are upon the spot, and legally qualified, should exercise the functions which remain vested in us by the Royal Charter for the administration of justice. I am therefore to request, that you will be pleased to remonstrate to Mr. George Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Messrs. Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, who have assumed the government of these Settlements, and detained my person under a strong military guard, to warn them in the most serious manner, that I do and shall hold them, and each of them, answerable to the East-India Company, to publick justice, to myself, and the other Members of my Council, should any obstacles arising from them, or any of them, prevent me and my brethren, the other justices, from the execution of our several duties and functions.

And further, that should they themselves presume, incapacitated as they are, to execute the duties of judges of the criminal courts constituted by the Royal Charter, I do and shall hold them, and each of them, answerable to the East-India Company and to publick justice.

I have the honour to be,

Sr. Thomas's Mount,
30th September, 1776.

S I R,

Your most obedient humble servant,

+ There seems to be something wanting in this place to complete the sense, but it is conformable to the copy.

LETTER from George Stratton, Esq. to John Roberts, Esq. Chairman of the Court of Directors, dated Fort St. George, 30th September 1776. Received by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper over-land the 2d of April 1777.

S I R,

I WRITE this as an apology in the name of myself and the Council, for the length of our public letter by this conveyance, and for the bad arrangement of many of the paragraphs, which was owing to the multiplicity of business we were engaged in; it was resolved at one time to alter the whole composition in regard to the style, &c. but we had not time to do this, or make it shorter, and we hope you will find patience to wade through much matter, great part of which might have been referred to instead of entering so minutely on the subject. To guide you and the Honorable Court in the reading of the most material parts, a paper of reference is enclosed. I am informed that Lord Pigot has wrote to a number of his friends, male and female, appealing to their pity, stating that his life is in danger, and his confinement intolerable: I beg, Sir, you will take the trouble to view the Letter from the Board to Major Horne on this subject, which will point out the truth; and I must also assure you upon my word of honor, that my daily reports from the Mount tell me he goes where he pleases with the officer attending him, sees his family, and is constantly with them the whole day, as well as many ladies and gentlemen from the Fort; that his friends assist him in his dispatches, and that he is not now or ever was in any danger of his life. The public Letter we wrote to him long since also tells him that he has the choice of going to any chiefship, or a passage to England on any of the Company's ships; all this and much more has been repeatedly told him by Major Horne, and I thought it necessary to mention the same particularly to you in our vindication, and to shew that we do not mean to solicit your support by appealing to the passions, but by the representation of facts.

In a Letter I have just now received from the Rajah of Tanjore, he declares to me that he was never under any alarms and fears (as mentioned so often to the Board by Lord Pigot) that it was never his wish or desire to have a Chief and Council or Resident at Tanjore; and that he should look on such an appointment as an implied declaration that the Government of the Tanjore province had been transferred from the Nabob to the Company, and that those therefore who could have proposed such a measure were not his friends; my information from Tanjore, which I can depend upon, tells me that the Rajah is entirely beset by the creatures of Moodoo Kistnah

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(Lord Pigot's Dubash) so that he is made to believe the most ridiculous stories; this cannot be prevented, as I have declared in my letter to him, that I will not directly or indirectly interfere in his Government, so that we must have patience until time and circumstances can undeceive him; mean while my utmost attention shall be applied in putting the Fortrefs of Tanjore in a proper state of defence.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

JOHN ROBERTS, Esq.

G. STRATTON.

Index to the General Letter.

- Substance of Letters to and from the Nabob relative to Tanjore. From paragraph 1 to par. 20 included.
- Substance of debates about Lord Pigot's going to Tanjore. From par. 20 to par. 30 included.
- Relative to Lord Pigot's proceedings at Tanjore, and Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country. From par. 31 to par. 82 included.
- Nabob's complaint to Sir Edward Hughes against Lord Pigot, together with substance of Sir Edward Hughes's Letter in consequence, and of the answer of the Board. From par. 82 to par. 90 included.
- Substance of Letters to and from the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, relative to Lord Pigot's proceedings at Tanjore. From par. 90 to par. 96 included.
- Questions moved by Lord Pigot, and the arguments thereon, that Members of the Board should not visit the Nabob and his sons; that the Nabob's Letter was wrote to Sir Edward Hughes with an intent to create divisions amongst the Members of Government, and that the Nabob should be desired to reside at Arcot. From par. 99 to par. 115 included.
- A question proposed by Sir Robert Fletcher, and refused to be put by Lord Pigot. From par. 116 to par. 122 included.
- Substance of a Minute of the Board on Lord Pigot's conduct. From par. 122 to par. 123 included.
- Instructions proposed to be given to Colonel Stuart. Lord Pigot's refusal to move a question on those instructions, together with his Motion that Mr. Russell should be appointed Resident at Tanjore. From par. 125 to par. 137 included.
- Lord Pigot's declaration that *he would not allow a matter to be agitated at the Board.* Par. 137, 138, and 139 included.
- Arguments about the instructions to Colonel Stuart. From par. 141 to 146.

Substance

- From par. 146 to 168. Substance of debates about the instructions to Colonel Stuart, Lord Pigot's attempt to suspend Messieurs Stratton and Brooke. Proceedings in consequence.
- From par. 168 to par. 179 included. Proceedings of the Majority of the Council after separating themselves from Lord Pigot and his adherents.
- From par. 179 to par. 197 included. Lord Pigot's arrest. Residence at the Mount, with substance of Letter to and from Sir Edward Hughes, on the subject of Lord Pigot's having claimed the protection of the King's flag.
- From par. 197 to par. 209 included. Remarks on the illegal and arbitrary proceedings of Lord Pigot.
- From par. 209 to par. 213 included. Referring the Court of Directors to the Letter and Resolution of the Governor-General and Council, and setting forth the criminality of Lord Pigot's conduct towards the Nabob, pointing out the Nabob's unshaken attachment to the Company, and likewise the necessity there is at this present juncture strenuously to improve the connexion subsisting between the Nabob and the Company.
- Paragraph 214. Remark on Lord Pigot's being the first Member of the Board to move a previous question.
- From par. 215 to par. 216 included. Relative to the Falsification of the Records by Lord Pigot, and his avowed contempt of the Act of Parliament, and of the instructions to the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, as well as his declared intention to suppress or destroy any Letter addressed to the Governor and Council that he should think proper.
- From 217 to 224 included. Lord Pigot's criminal conduct, in inattention paid to positive orders from the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, for prosecuting a war in the beginning of the year with Marattas.
- Paragr. 225. Suppression of a Letter from the Nabob by Lord Pigot.
- From 226 to 230. Remarks on draught of a Letter to the Court of Directors laid before the Board by Lord Pigot 22d June.
- From 230 to 235. Remarks on part of a draught of a Letter to the Court of Directors laid before the Board by Lord Pigot to be sent by the Grenville.

Remarks on Mr. Dalrymple's violence and arbitrary doctrines.

Paragr. 235.

Reasons for having detained Lord Pigot in arrest, and for not having given in charges against him.

Paragr. 236.
237.

Information lodged against Lord Pigot by Mr. Benfield of his having received considerable sums of money and jewels, &c. from the Princes of the country, together with the reply of the Governor and Council.

From 239 to
241.

General Letter from George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Esquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Knight, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, and George Mackay, Esquires, dated Fort St. George, the 24th of September 1776.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies.

HONORABLE,

Paragraph 1. WE had the honor to address you a General and Separate Letter from this department per Ankerwyke, dated 14th February, duplicates whereof you will have received by the Hillsborough, that failed from hence the 20th of the same month.

2. We likewise addressed you a short Letter 14th May, which was to have been conveyed to you by the Grenville, then meant to be dispatched from Bombay; duplicate of this Letter, together with one addressed to your Honors by Lord Pigot, were transmitted to you by a French ship that failed from Pondicherry the latter end of last June, triplicate now waits on you a number in the packet.

3. The Grenville being arrived here from Bombay, and to be finally dispatched for England, affords us an opportunity of continuing to your Honors a full account of the political and military transactions of this Government since the departure of the Ankerwyke.

4. Before we begin however upon the narrative of our proceedings, it will be necessary we acquaint your Honors that a series of illegal, violent, and oppressive measures on the part of Lord Pigot, in which he was aided by Messieurs Russell, Dalrymple, and Stone, brought your affairs at length to so dangerous a crisis, that we were driven to the necessity of putting his Lordship in arrest, and of suspending those gentlemen from the service of the Company until your pleasure shall be known. In the sequel you will perceive the immediate causes which obliged us to come to this resolution. The only alternative left us, was to abandon our constitutional rights, and the trust you had reposed in us, or firmly to assert the powers we were invested with, and remove from the Government a man, whose arbitrary principles would inevitably have involved your affairs in inextricable difficulties. The plan we shall pursue in stating to you these transactions,

actions, shall be as candid to his Lordship and his adherents as the subject will possibly admit of. We only beg your indulgence till we come to the latter part of this Address, when we shall enter into a full and particular discussion of them.

5. Our separate Letter by the Ankerwyke will have informed your Honors of the release of the Rajah of Tanjore, of the Fort of Tanjore's having been evacuated by the Nabob's troops, and in consequence of its being garrisoned by a proper force of yours, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Harper.

6. Shortly after the departure of the Ankerwyke, we received a long Letter from the Nabob, stating to us the ill conduct of the Rajah of Tanjore, previous to his having gone against him, and the weighty reasons which had compelled him to take that step in concert with your troops under the command of General Smith. 11 March.

7. On the first expedition against Tanjore, the Nabob represents that his eldest son, Umdit-ul-Omrah, whom he had sent with General Smith, had settled matters amicably with the Rajah, and stipulated with him for the payment of certain sums, which the Rajah solemnly engaged himself to discharge; the non-performance of which stipulations on the part of the Rajah having involved his Highness's finances in the utmost distress, was the first cause which induced him to take up arms the second time against him.

8. That in carrying on the two sieges he had contracted such considerable debts, as had reduced him to the utmost difficulties, in raising troops for the defence of those forts and countries in other parts of his dominions, that were left defenceless by the old troops having been drafted from them to go against Tanjore; in paying batta to the army on both expeditions, as well as other expenses, and in paying to the Dutch large sums for the release of such districts as they were in possession of. And that in consequence, all these heavy debts contracted for the peace and security of his and your possessions, would now lie heavy on him; that your orders were to restore the Rajah of Tanjore to the full and entire possession of his dominions.

9. He then proceeds to say, that having cheerfully received a Garrison of his friends, the Company, into Tanjore, he was ready, until your further orders should arrive, to increase the allowance he had from the beginning made

made the Rajah, and to pay the expenses of any Garrison we should determine upon. That he took Tanjore, knowing his own honor, as well as that of his friends, to be concerned; but could he have foreseen the difficulties, which from your orders were consequent on that measure, though the tranquillity of the Carnatic was much disturbed, and our mutual interests suffered by it, he would not have taken up arms to punish his tributary, or bring him to that degree of subordination, which was at length become so essential to the peace and prosperity of his dominions,

Ibid. No. 10.

10. This being the substance of the Letter in question from the Nabob, we thought advisable to write him an immediate answer, wherein we, as delicately as possible, represented to him that your orders were to restore the country of Tanjore to the Rajah; but such was our solicitude to do every thing in concert with his Highness, that these orders were yet unexecuted, notwithstanding an English Garrison had been almost a month in the Fort of Tanjore. That humanity to the wretched inhabitants, distressed beyond measure by the miserable state of the country, possessed of no kind of Government, either of his Highness or of the Rajah, as well as justice to the Rajah, who was still scarcely better than a prisoner, and attention to the public honor, made it absolutely necessary the orders of the Company should be carried into immediate effect.

11. We therefore begged leave to repeat our former request, that his Highness would give an order directed to all his Amuldars, &c. in the Tanjore country, to relinquish all manner of authority when called upon by us to do so, and to account with such persons as we should name for such sums as had been collected in the Tanjore country, from the day on which your Letter relative to Tanjore had been presented to him; and likewise that he would inform us of the amount of such orders as he had given on the country.

22 March.

12. This produced a reply from his Highness a few days after, in which he says, it was not by a needless expense in superfluous show and parade he had fallen under the burthen of the heavy debt which then oppressed him, but in the expenses of the defence of Madras, and the taking of Pondicherry in the course of our war with France, the expedition against Madura, the war with the Soubah of the Decan, which happened in consequence of our taking possession of the northern Circars, and afterwards from the attempt to get the Dewannee of the Myfore country. The war waged against it, the defraying the expenses of his own forces, as well as those of the Company, in that war, and finally from the incursion of Hyder Ally Khan, none of which owed their rise to him

him, as he had already fully represented in his Letter of the 30th of January 1770, and in addition thereto, from the ten Lacks of Pagodas he had paid on account of the Myfore war.

13. That all these expenses had been incurred in assisting his friends the Company, but those which he had been under the necessity of contracting for the reduction of Tanjore, were with a view to the tranquillity of the Carnatic, and the ease and welfare of his people; for otherwise the greatest disorders would have arose from the ill conduct of the Rajah, and from his soliciting succour from the Marattas, the Dutch, &c. as he had explained to us in his former Letters.

14. He did not, he says, hesitate in receiving a Garrison of his friends the English into the Fort of Tanjore, by way of security, as into his other Forts, that there might be a strong proof of his firm friendship for the Company; but if any one should think, notwithstanding this, that in putting the Fort under the protection of the Company, in agreeing to defray the expenses of the Garrison, in offering to settle a considerable Jaghire on the Rajah, and also to give to the Company whatever they might expect from the Rajah, should he be restored, that he had not applied himself to execute your orders, it was his misfortune; that your Honors had never been furnished with a complete and perfect account of the circumstances of the case, and were still so unacquainted with it, as to believe for a certainty, the Rajah to be a prisoner in Trichinopoly: but he was convinced whenever his Majesty, the Parliament of England, and the Company should understand the real and certain state of the affair, they would then approve of the conduct of their old Ally and friend, in withholding his consent to the dishonor of himself and family, and the ruin of the future interests of the Company, and the English nation in India. That so far from the country of Tanjore being distressed, and the inhabitants in the miserable state represented to us, it never had been in so prosperous a condition, many of the inhabitants being returned who had fled from the oppressions of the Rajah; and as a sure and certain sign of the industry of the people, and the care and attention paid to their rights, that agriculture was never carried to a greater height than during the time it was governed by his managers.

15. And lastly, in answer to our request, that his Highness would grant an order to his Amuldars in the Tanjore country to relinquish all manner of authority when required by us to do so, and to account with persons we should name for what money had been collected since the day he received your Letter, he replies, he had invariably, from the first, declared his

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sentiments

sentiments in a uniform manner, with respect to his right to the Tanjore country; and therefore it was his earnest entreaty we would not interfere in the management of it, until your pleasure should be known.

22d March.

16. Seeing this rooted disinclination in the Nabob to give up his claim of right to the Tanjore country, although he admitted a Garrison of your troops into the Fort, we addressed him another Letter on the subject, conceived in such terms as would plainly shew him your orders were positive, and must be obeyed.

17. We acquainted him the former business of Tanjore had been well deliberated upon by your Honors, and that your orders in consequence were not issued, until they had been laid before his Majesty's Ministers for their approval.

18. We entreated him to call to his remembrance the difficulties he was able to encounter, when the Company's power and his were united; that the Company had given him their support when he was alike destitute of money, and of power, and that they would continue to him that support; but the public faith was pledged to the Rajah, as well as to him, and the Company's positive orders were to put the country of Tanjore again into the possession of the Rajah.

19. That after this, what language could we use to induce him to make the restoration of the Rajah his own act, if all the arguments we had already suggested, had not had their proper force? and with what concern, after the Company having acted in concert with him through so many difficulties, should we be under the necessity of carrying their orders into effect by their authority alone? the world would justify us in the obedience we should shew to the commands of our Masters, and having never failed in the part of friendship, in respect, and in propriety of conduct towards him, we trusted we should stand excused, after the pressing manner we had so often urged him to do that from himself, which was right and proper, as well respecting his interest as his dignity.

20. A few days after this Lord Pigot, unto whom we had entrusted the whole management of this delicate and important business, as you have been before advised, acquainted us, " That judging from the Letter from
" the Nabob above quoted, that he would not give his consent to our
" carrying into execution the orders we had received from you; and the
" state of the crop in the Tanjore country not being in a situation to admit of any further delay, he had determined, with our approbation,

" to

“ to set out immediately for that country to carry your orders into effect,
“ by placing the Rajah in the full possession and management of his
“ dominions.”

21. In the propriety of this determination we unanimously concurred, his Lordship having first moved a question to that purpose.

22. The safety of Tanjore likewise, and the security of the Rajah and his family, made it appear to us not only necessary that an English garrison should be in the Fort, but that his whole country should be defended by your troops; we accordingly resolved to send a battalion of Scapoys thither, the better to enable him to collect in his revenues, if such a measure should prove agreeable to him. And as the security of the Carnatic can depend only upon a well-disciplined force, regularly paid, we were induced to hope the Rajah of Tanjore would join us in our endeavours to place the country in such a situation.

23. At the same Consultation that we came to the above resolutions, of its being proper and necessary for Lord Pigot to go to Tanjore, for the reasons assigned in his Minute entered on the proceedings of that day, the following questions were also moved by him, and carried in the affirmative by a Majority of the Board.

24. “ That in virtue of the Commission of Government, the Governor holds the same authority, when present in any Fort, Factory, or Settlement under this Presidency, that he does when present in Fort St. George.” And,

25. “ That the Governor may take whatsoever servant of the Company he chuses with him to Tanjore, either civil or military.”

26. These Questions met with opposition, as your Honors will observe on reference to the Consultation where they are recorded.

27. Sir Robert Fletcher, Messrs Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, who were against them, argued on the first Question; That although they had assented unanimously, “ It was proper and necessary for Lord Pigot to go to Tanjore for the reasons set forth in his Minute,” yet they had done so upon the idea that more Members of the Council would upon a subsequent Motion be joined in a deputation with his Lordship, under express and particular instructions signed by the Board, for a business of so much importance as the taking a country of such considerable Revenue from

29th March.

from the Nabob and giving it to the Rajah, required such a deputation; and as a military force might be necessary to put the Rajah in possession, and the principal part of the treaty to be made with him was military arrangements, that the military Commander in Chief ought to be a Member of that Deputation.

28. That had your Honors judged it necessary to leave the management of this business solely to his Lordship, your orders would have expressed it, and therefore their giving him greater powers than you had done, was in their opinion inconsistent with their duty to the Company, and what they owed to themselves; that the precedent was dangerous, and might be used to bad purposes. If Lord Pigot could, by going alone, render any essential service which he could not do at the head of a deputation, they should not object to his being given such extraordinary powers for a time; but as they were certain he could not, they were against his going without a deputation; and accordingly it was moved by Sir Robert Fletcher, but carried against the question, " That at least two Members " of the Council should be joined with Lord Pigot in a deputation.

29. On the second question it was argued, The Board having resolved that Lord Pigot should go to Tanjore, it was absurd to suppose any objections could be made to his having every proper assistance; but by his question, " That he should take whatever servants with him, either " civil or military, that he thought proper," he might if he chose carry with him Members of the Council and the Commander in Chief, the former of whom should never be employed where they had not a share of the management, nor the latter where he did not command; that he might moreover take with him, in subordinate stations, Members of the Government, who by your orders were specially and by name joined with him as principals in the business of the commission he was going to execute, and therefore were bound either to act as principals at Tanjore or at the Board, by holding a regular correspondence and sending orders to the deputation, as circumstances might require. And on the third question, That it seemed totally to subvert the present constitution of the Company, at once to frustrate and elude the late orders and regulations of the General Court, and to supersede the commission of the Commander in Chief of the forces in India, as well as that of the Commander in Chief on this establishment. That the Commission of Government was the commission of the whole Board, and gave no separate authority whatever to the Governor. That the only military authority which by your orders he could hold, when absent from Madras, was the command of his own guard, as particularly and positively expressed in the forty-second article of the late

late orders respecting the powers to be exercised by military Commanders in Chief, and that that was given him out of compliment to his station, and not to perform any military operations.

30. A reply to these arguments your Honors will find from Mr. Dalrymple in Consultation 10th June. 10th June.

31. Conformably however to the foregoing resolutions, Lord Pigot set out for Tanjore on the 30th of March, and arrived at that place the 8th of April.

32. Previous however to his departure he received two Letters from the Nabob, the one reiterating the arguments he had made use of from the beginning for his still keeping possession of the Tanjore country, till your further orders should arrive, and the other declaring he never could give up that right to it which he possessed; but as his whole dependence was placed in the English Nation and the Company, he would consent to set apart, after discharging the debts he had contracted, paying the troops garrisoned in Tanjore, and the other necessary expenses of the Government of that country, whatever overplus might arise from the collections, and let it remain untouched until an answer to the representations he had made to you should arrive from Europe, when he would deliver it up, if such should be your final pleasure.

33. Your orders however to us, to put the Rajah into the full and entire possession and management of his country were positive, and those orders therefore could not admit of any farther procrastination on our part.

34. On the 11th April proclamation was made by Lord Pigot at Tanjore, That it having been your pleasure the Rajah should be restored, all officers civil and military, and all persons living under your protection, were thereby required to consider the Rajah of Tanjore as again restored to the Government of his country, in the full extent of that Government as he possessed it at the conclusion of the treaty in 1762, and to give him all proper aid and assistance. 24th April.

35. A few days after the arrival of Lord Pigot at Tanjore, the Rajah addressed him a Letter, representing the then condition of his country to be such, as that the placing a Garrison of English troops in the fort was not only necessary, but it was likewise of consequence troops should be allowed him for the defence of his whole country; for the expenses of which

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he would with pleasure assign the Company four Lacks of Pagodas per annum.

36. His finances likewise being in utter disorder, and the state of his country in the greatest confusion, he found it necessary to throw himself upon the Company for his present support, and therefore requested we would purchase of him, at a reasonable rate, all the grain of the present year, excepting such as his country might stand in need of.

37. He also desired as Devy Cotah had no country annexed to it, we would take such part as we should think proper for a dependency thereon.

24th April.

38. This Letter from the Rajah being transmitted to us by Lord Pigot, together with his own sentiments, we were of opinion the offer of the Rajah, to allow four Lacks of Pagodas annually for the expense of the troops to be kept for the defence of his fort and country, did not correspond with your orders, which direct the garrison for the fort of Tanjore should be ascertained, and the expense defrayed by the Rajah, according to the particular and regular accounts to be delivered to him; and therefore that the Rajah should be informed, when the strength of the garrison should be determined by the Board, no more of that sum than should be found necessary to defray the expenses of it should be required from him, but, if he chose, such a force for the protection of his country should be kept up as he would provide funds for.

Ibid.

39. With respect to purchasing the grain of the present year, a Majority of the Board concurred in opinion with Lord Pigot, it was proper and necessary so to do. Those who were averse to the measure were of opinion it should not be purchased until the matter was well considered, and it appeared it was not grain mortgaged by the Nabob to individuals during the time he had the Government of the Tanjore country.

40. The Rajah, however, was made acquainted with our acquiescence in his request, and desired to collect the grain as near as possible the sea coast, for the quicker transportation of it hither by boats.

41. The offer of country round Devy Cotah we declined, as we thereby acted conformably to your express commands.

42. During

42. During the time Lord Pigot was at Tanjore, we received a Letter 24th April from Mr. Paul Benfield, setting forth claims he declared himself to have on the Tanjore country, for loans he had made to the Nabob whilst that country was under the government of his Highness, and therefore requesting we would afford him all reasonable aid and assistance to secure to him the recovery of his property while Lord Pigot remained in authority at Tanjore. These claims Mr. Benfield had made application to his Lordship about at Tanjore, previous to the delivery of the country to the Rajah, but his Lordship's reply was, that "he was unable, without the aid and assistance of his Council, to say more, than that he would, on his return to Madras, lay Mr. Benfield's claims before them."

43. Mr. Benfield likewise informed us, that he had communicated to Lord Pigot at Madras, previous to his departure for Tanjore, the nature of his claims, and from what his Lordship had said to him, that he had been encouraged to accompany him thither. He also gave us to understand, he should be ready at any time to lay before us sufficient vouchers for the authenticity of his claims.

44. This being a matter of consequence, the claims of Mr. Benfield being very considerable, we resolved to wait till the return of Lord Pigot, who could particularly inform us of every thing which had passed between him and Mr. Benfield at Tanjore (whither that gentleman accompanied him) relative to the business in question.

45. This resolution however was not unanimous, some Members of our Council being of opinion, the waiting till the return of Lord Pigot would probably be prejudicial to Mr. Benfield; or at least, if such should be the resolution, that Lord Pigot should be informed, the grain mortgaged to Mr. Benfield by the Nabob should not be meddled with, either by his Lordship or the Rajah, until we had come to a final determination thereupon.

46. On the 3d of May Lord Pigot returned from Tanjore. Previous, however to his Lordship's arrival, we received two Letters from the Nabob, as referred to in the margin; the one complaining of a party of Europeans having entered his country in a hostile manner by order of Lord Pigot, and of their having forcibly seized and carried to Tanjore some of his principal officers, together with all the private and public papers of his Government that they had in their possession; and the other representing the great trouble of mind he laboured under, by hearing that a company

24th April.
29th April.

company of Seapoys were on the point of marching to take possession of Ramnaut and Shavagunga, two districts belonging to him, and entirely independent of the Tanjore country.

29th April.

47. To these Letters we did not immediately reply; we only acknowledged their receipt, and acquainted the Nabob we expected Lord Pigot in a few days, when we made no doubt he would clear up every thing to his Highness's satisfaction.

13th May.

48. Lord Pigot being returned from Tanjore, laid before us a diary of his proceedings, with such Letters and papers as he had thought worthy of notice, and he had not communicated to us before.

49. He remarked to us, " That the sentiments expressed in our
" General Letter to your Honors per Ankerwyke, with the unanimous
" concurrence of the Board at that time, as well as in Consultation
" 25th March last, so clearly declared the expediency, not to say
" necessity, of having the whole military force in the Carnatic under the
" Company, and paid by them, that it had given him much satisfaction
" to find the Rajah of Tanjore very heartily concurred in the wish of
" the Board, that he would join them in their endeavours to place the
" Carnatic in such a situation; and being sensible of the advantage of
" having his country thus protected by the Company, he had requested
" their assistance to that effect, and offered to make an annual assignment
" of 400,000 Pagodas for that purpose. That this stipulated sum
" would not only afford a sufficiency for defraying the expenses of the
" troops necessary for the protection of the Tanjore country, but would
" also leave a balance, adequate, he hoped, to our military expenses not
" paid by the Nabob; and that he had the assurances of the Rajah, the
" four Lacks of Pagodas was considerably less than his military force
" had usually cost him."

13th May.

50. On considering the whole of Lord Pigot's proceedings while at Tanjore, a Majority of the Board voted a Minute of approbation thereon. The Minority were, Sir Robert Fletcher, who approved of the acceptance of the four Lacks of Pagodas per annum, but could not change the opinions he gave in Consultation 24th April, and retired from the Board indisposed, before Lord Pigot's other proceedings were taken into consideration; Mr. Stratton, Mr. Palmer, and Mr. Jourdan, who approved of Lord Pigot's proceedings in all but the seizure of the Dobbeer in the Nabob's country, as complained of in the Nabob's Letter during his Lordship's

ship's absence ; and Mr. Mackay, who approved of Lord Pigot's proceedings, excepting in the seizure of the Dobbeer in the Nabob's country, and in flogging Comarah Dubash on the public parade. A Diary of these proceedings, to which we beg you will be referred, is entered on our Consultations that wait on you by this dispatch.

51. It was likewise resolved, "That the request of the Rajah of Tanjore, 13th May.
"not only to garrison the fort, but to protect the country of Tanjore
"by the Company's troops, in consideration of his paying Pagodas
"400,000 per annum, should be complied with."

52. The reply made by Lord Pigot to the Nabob, in consequence of the Letters we had received from his Highness during his Lordship's absence, and in which he complained of acts of hostility having been committed against him by Lord Pigot's order, is entered on our Proceedings, to 13th May.
which we beg you will be referred.

53. Having resolved, as we have already informed you, to wait the return of Lord Pigot from Tanjore, before we took into consideration the claims of Mr. Benfield on that country, we accordingly set apart an early day after his Lordship's arrival for that purpose.

54. This Mr. Benfield was made acquainted with, and at the same time 17th May.
informed he was given that notice, in order that he might prepare and lay before us whatever else he might have to offer on the subject of his claims on the Tanjore country.

55. We accordingly received on the day appointed two Letters from 20th May.
Mr. Benfield, acquainting us, that since his former Address he had been informed the grain of the present crop, delivered over to him by the Circar on account of his claims, had been taken possession of by the Company's Seapoys and the people of the Rajah ; also of the seizure of that which had been delivered on account of the debts of the inhabitants to the Circar, assigned over to him ; and likewise of his people having been removed from their stations in the mortgaged districts, and from collecting the debts of the inhabitants assigned to him ; and that a stop had been put to his selling the grain of the last year, which he had received from the Nabob on account of former loans in the different parts of the Tanjore country. And further he had been informed, that with the same power which had been before exercised, his grain had been seized, his people driven away from collecting the debts due to him from the inhabitants,
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bitants, and that grain which those inhabitants had mortgaged and delivered over to him as security for their debts, had likewise been taken possession of.

56. This representation of Mr. Benfield being a matter of serious consequence, and several of our Members being indisposed and absent when it was read, we resolved his Letters should lie for the consideration of a full Board; and in the mean time we called upon him, pursuant to his Letter of the 22d April, for sufficient vouchers, &c. of his claims, as well as to furnish us with every necessary information relative to the nature and circumstances of those claims, and the periods at which they were contracted.

28th May.

57. In consequence of this, we received a Letter from Mr. Benfield at our next meeting, stating to us fully and particularly the nature of his claims on the Tanjore country, to which we beg you will be referred, together with a translate of a certificate given him by the Nabob for their authenticity.

29th May.

58. These Letters therefore, together with all such others as he had addressed, either to us or to Lord Pigot, we attentively considered; but not finding that satisfactory account of some circumstances necessary towards forming a proper judgment on the subject, we called upon Mr. Benfield for an account of the particulars of the sums he had received from the Tanjore country, as well as for certain vouchers we deemed it of consequence to have produced.

Ibid.

59. The next morning we accordingly assembled in Council, and read a Letter from Mr. Benfield.

Ibid.

60. In answer to one part of which, where he complains "Of the injuries he had sustained from the measures and conduct of the Right Honorable Lord Pigot, while acting under the commission of the Board, in causing the grain that had been deposited with him to be seized by the Company's Seapoys, and in depriving him of the means further to collect the revenues;" Lord Pigot observed, that reference might be made to the resolution of Council the 25th March last, to the orders given the officer commanding the battalion of Seapoys, and to the form of an order from him to such officers as he should send on detachment; and then desired our opinions "As to the propriety of those orders with respect to

“ the resolutions of Council 25th March, and the power we had vested
“ in him to carry your orders into execution.”

61. A Majority of the Board voted an affirmative opinion on those measures.

62. A Resolution then passed to furnish Mr. Benfield with a copy of those orders, and to inform him, if his people could point out any officer or Seapoy who had acted improperly, and he would represent the particulars of such conduct to us, the necessary enquiries should be made accordingly.

63. Lord Pigot then moved the following question, which was carried Ibid. in the affirmative by a Majority of six to five :

64. “ That the Rajah of Tanjore being put in the possession and management of his country by the Company’s express orders, it is the opinion of this Board, that it is not in their power to comply with Mr. Benfield’s requests in any respect, those claims on individuals which bear the appearance of having no connexion with Government, not being sufficiently explained to enable the Board to form an opinion thereon, and the assignments of the Nabob not being admissible.”

65. The dissents to this Resolution are entered in Consultation referred 3d June to in the margin.

66. The same day on which these dissents were given in, Mr. Brooke, who had voted at the former discussion of this matter for the question, moved the Board, for reasons set forth in a Minute which he recorded on the occasion, to re-consider the Proceedings of the 29th May, relative to Mr. Benfield’s claims on the Tanjore country.

67. This request of Mr. Brooke was accordingly complied with, and a day set apart for that purpose.

68. The subject however did not come under debate so soon as was expected, some Members of the Board, particularly Mr. Floyer, who had just arrived from England and taken his seat, desiring a further time to read and consider the papers entered on the occasion.

69. Mr.

69. Mr. Floyer, on the day he took his seat as a Member of this Government, 6th June, informed the Board, that in consequence of his appointment from your Honors to succeed Mr. Whitehill in the Chiefship of Mazulipatam, and that gentleman having taken his departure for Europe, he was ready to repair to the station you had been pleased to appoint him; upon which your late President observed, that he should have some particular matters relative to the Northern Circars to lay before the Board in a few days, and he therefore hoped the Board would postpone entering upon Mr. Floyer's appointment until he had done so. The Majority of the Board were of opinion, that your orders concerning him should be implicitly obeyed, but consented to defer this matter for the reason assigned by Lord Pigot. But Mr. Floyer perceiving an unwillingness in his Lordship to proceed upon the execution of your orders relative to his appointment to Mazulipatam, he again moved the Board on the 21st of June to take those orders into consideration, as your late President had been totally silent on the subject he informed the Board he should in a few days lay before us, and we accordingly signified to the Council of Mazulipatam your appointment of him to that Chiefship. We beg leave to refer your Honors to the Minutes recorded on this occasion by your late President and Mr. Dalrymple.

70. A few days after the arrival of Mr. Floyer, the Board entered upon a reconsideration of your late President's Motion of the 29th May, respecting the property of the last year's crop of grain in the Tanjore country; when Mr. Floyer took occasion to request permission to decline giving his sentiments or vote thereupon, as he deemed it a subject of great importance, of which he could not pretend to a competent knowledge with the little information he should be able to obtain on the subject; and urged, as a further reason for his not interfering in the question, that he might probably err in the opinion he might give, and that as his duty called him to Mazulipatam, he should not have it in his power, by being at his station, to remedy the evils which his vote might entail, if the subject should on any future occasion come again under the discussion of the Board. To which the President, Messieurs Dawson, Russell, Dalrymple, and Stone replied, he might easily make himself master of the subject, and therefore insisted, though entirely against his inclination, that he should give his sentiments, and vote on the occasion. Compelled in this manner, Mr. Floyer reluctantly complied, as your Honors will perceive on reference to the proceedings.

71. What

71. What his Lordship's intentions could be, in thus forcing Mr. Floyer to give his sentiments and vote on the *re-consideration* of a subject that had been fully discussed before his arrival, is a matter we shall not here touch upon; we only submit it to your candour, if it would not have been more equitable to have allowed Mr. Floyer to proceed to his appointment at Mazulipatam, or at least to have permitted him to remain silent on the occasion, than to have forcibly compelled him to be a party in a matter which had already been determined upon.

72. In the mean while a Minute was given in by Mr. Dalrymple, not 10th June. merely relating to Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country, but as the discussion concerned the Nabob, the Tanjore country, your orders, and our Resolutions in consequence.

73. This Minute has been fully replied to by Sir Robert Fletcher in Consultation 24th June, to which we beg you will be referred.

74. At our next meeting Lord Pigot moved, that the Resolution of Council the 29th May, "declaring Mr. Benfield's claims not to have been sufficiently explained, and the Nabob's assignments to be inadmissible," should stand confirmed; but on the question's being put, it was carried in the negative seven to five. 13th June.

75. The next day Lord Pigot moved us again to come to the Resolution, "That all the claims of Mr. Benfield were private and not public concerns;" but this likewise being put to the vote, was carried in the negative. 14th June.

76. And the following Resolutions proposed by Mr. Mackay were passed in the affirmative by a Majority of seven to five.

1st. "That it is the opinion of the Board, that the Nabob had a right to the Government-share of the crop in the Tanjore country, the produce of grain sown during the time it was in his possession, and that any mortgages he may have given on the same are good."

2d. "That a Letter be written to the Rajah of Tanjore to inform him of the above Resolution of the Board, and to recommend to him to give Mr. Benfield all reasonable assistance in recovering such debts as

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" appear

“ appear to be justly due to him from the inhabitants, as well as to re-
“ store to him the grain of last year, which was in the possession of his
“ people, and said to be forcibly taken from them.” And,

3d. “ That it be further recommended to the Rajah to account with
“ Mr. Benfield for the Government-share of the grain in the districts af-
“ signed to him by the Nabob, and said to be forcibly taken from his
“ people.”

14th June.

77. On reference to the debates on these resolutions your Honors will be
pleased to observe the Votes stood in the following order :

For	Against
Mr. Stratton,	Lord Pigot,
Sir Robert Fletcher,	Mr. Dawson,
Mr. Brooke,	Mr. Russell,
Mr. Floyer,	Mr. Dalrymple,
Mr. Palmer,	Mr. Stone.
Mr. Jourdan,	
Mr. Mackay.	

78. When these Resolutions had been passed, Lord Pigot acquainted us,
if his Question, declaring Mr. Benfield's claims to be of a private instead of
a public nature, had been carried in the affirmative, he would have fol-
lowed it with this Motion:

79. “ That as it appears to this Board, that Mr. Benfield's transactions
“ with the Country Government are contrary to the express orders of the
“ Company, and that any interference therein may raise apprehensions in the
“ Rajah of Tanjore, and tend to involve the Company's affairs on this
“ Coast ; for which reason it is resolved, that this matter be referred to the
“ Court of Directors.”

80. This is entered on the Proceedings of that day, at his Lordship's
particular desire.

13th, 17th,
20th, 28th,
and 29th
May.
3d, 10th,
13th, 14th,
17th, and
24th June.

81. For a more full and comprehensive knowledge of this subject, we
beg leave to request your Honors will be referred to our Consultations, and
to the several Minutes that have been delivered in on the occasion, as noted
in the Margin.

82. On

82. On the 3d June we received a Letter from Sir Edward Hughes, 3d June. acquainting us, it was with much concern he found himself under the necessity of interfering in any respect between your Representatives and the Nabob; but that the application, which he enclosed from his Highness, was of so alarming a tendency, he could not avoid laying it before us as soon as possible; part of the King's instructions to him being to do his utmost to promote the interests of his Majesty, as well as of your's, or of such Indian princes as you have already or may contract engagements with, among whom the Nabob of the Carnatic held the most distinguished place.

83. That his duty to the King his master, his zeal for the Company's welfare, and the feeling he had for the distresses of so good a friend to both, were to him the most urgent motives for writing to us; when he made not a doubt we would take such measures in consequence, as would effectually protect the Nabob from such alarms in future, the national honor and interest, as well as the welfare of the Company, being materially connected with the just security of his Highness.

84. The Letter enclosed to us by Sir Edward Hughes, addressed to 3d June. to him by the Nabob, was in purport as followeth :

85. " That the assurances of support and protection he had received
" from the grandfather of his present Majesty, and repeatedly from his
" Majesty himself and the Company, had given him the greatest con-
" fidence that his rights and honor would have been preserved invio-
" late; but the apprehensions under which he laboured, from Lord Pigot's
" unjust use of his power, had arrived at so dangerous a height, that he
" was obliged to apply to him, Sir Edward Hughes, for immediate in-
" terference in his support. That Lord Pigot, not content with the low
" and disgraceful state to which he had reduced his authority, by the mea-
" sures which he executed at Tanjore, had lately threatened to subject
" him to the most personal disgrace, by declaring in his Durbar, in a
" most determined and threatened tone of voice, that he would place an
" European guard upon his, the Nabob's house, to keep him a prisoner.
" That the cause of this outrage was his having written Lord Pigot a Let-
" ter on the 26th May, representing the injustice he had done him, by
" ordering a military force to march into the Ramnaut country, to deprive
" him of some districts there, and put the Rajah of Tanjore in possession
" of them. That no oppression could be equal to the depriving a man of
" his

" his right. That as Lord Pigot on a former occasion had ordered people
 " to enter his, the Nabob's, gardens in the middle of the night, pre-
 " tending he had information some people were ordered to be ill-treated
 " there, so he was under the greatest alarm lest Lord Pigot would pro-
 " ceed to execute in a passion what he had threatened; and therefore, as
 " Sir Edward Hughes was the servant of the King and Nation, who were
 " his protectors, as he was sent here for the support of his Sovereign's
 " honor, and the interest of the Company, so he called upon him, by every
 " duty which he owed to justice and his high station, to write immediately
 " to the Board, that such measures might be taken, as to secure his person
 " and family against Lord Pigot's threats and violence. That such was
 " the justice of his cause, that he was confident the Company would order
 " him full redress for the injuries which had been done to his Govern-
 " ment and people by Lord Pigot's conduct at Tanjore; but who was to
 " support him against those he then threatened, unless Sir Edward Hughes
 " would represent to the Council his situation; for that, by the established
 " custom, he could not apply to the Council but through the Governor,
 " and that the complaints were of the Governor himself."

86. Whereupon an answer was immediately wrote to Sir Edward
 Hughes to the following effect: those parts which are within inverted
 Commas being the explanation his Lordship gave us at the time.

87. That " our President assured us the Nabob had totally misunder-
 " stood him, he never having had a thought of placing a guard over him,
 " although he feared, and expressed those fears to the Nabob, that the en-
 " couragement his Highness gave to European visitors, and the impedi-
 " ments to public business, arising from the intrigues carried on by them
 " at the Durbar, would lay him under a necessity to place a guard to bring
 " such persons to him, that he might be acquainted with the nature of their
 " business."

88. We concluded this would be sufficient to satisfy him the person
 of the Nabob was in perfect security, our President declaring " no wanton
 " indignity to his Highness ever was intended, or ever would be com-
 " mitted by him, although his ears could never be shut to the complaints
 " of the distressed," and we assuring him that no such indignity to the
 Nabob should ever be countenanced by us, who were entrusted with the
 management of your affairs here.

89. The

89. The same day Sir Edward Hughes favoured us with an answer, acquainting us, that in order to satisfy the Nabob's mind on the subject of his Highness's application to him as the King's servant, he had immediately sent him a copy of his Letter and our reply, which he thought could not fail to produce the desired effect.

90. On the 10th June we received a Letter from the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, requiring copies of our Proceedings relative to Tanjore, and signifying to us at the same time, that they were the more desirous of receiving such materials, as they were informed an officer, at the head of the Company's troops, had been sent to Arjaloore, which place they understood was situated without the boundary of the kingdom of Tanjore, to seize upon one or more of the Nabob's officers, and had carried him or them with their papers to Tanjore.

91. That this act required an *explanation*. If it was necessary, in order to carry your instructions into execution, we would be justified by your instructions; but that this transaction, so far as they were yet acquainted with it, appeared to them a violation of the independent rights of the Nabob of the Carnatic, in which character Mahomed Ally Khan was acknowledged by the Treaty of Paris.

92. To this Letter we replied, that Lord Pigot acquainted us, " As he had passed through the Tanjore country, he found the proper officers, with all their accounts, had removed by the Nabob's orders from the villages; and was soon informed that every part of the country was in the same situation. That every means had been taken to throw difficulties in his way in the execution of the Company's orders, and to distress the country and its inhabitants. That without the assistance of the Dobbeer, (the principal officer of the Nabob who was seized) and his accounts, it would have been impossible for the Rajah to have obtained any knowledge of the Revenues, or indeed to have been properly placed in the management of his country; this man having been first Minister, and in fact Governor of the Tanjore country for fifty years past. That after Tanjore was taken, he told the Nabob's son, who commanded there for his father, that he would not desert his master in his misfortunes, and refused to act until he carried him to the Rajah, and desired the Rajah to lay his commands upon him. That on his (Lord Pigot's) proceeding for Tanjore, the Nabob ordered the Dobbeer to be sent out of the Tanjore country with all the public accounts. That the Dobbeer had retarded his journey by various pretences, and sent a message to the Rajah, de-

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" firing.

“ firing he might be conducted to Tanjore; the troop which attended
“ Lord Pigot was therefore sent to escort him; but when the troop ar-
“ rived at the place whence the message to the Rajah had been sent, they
“ found the Dobbeer had been conveyed from thence to Arialoor, whi-
“ ther the commanding officer of the troop followed, and escorted him
“ to Tanjore. That Lord Pigot had wrote to the Nabob, “ If he would
“ please to order the Amuldars and other officers to return with their
“ accounts to the Dobbeer at Tanjore, justice might be done to every
“ man, and the country, in a proper and equitable manner;” which he
“ however had not thought proper to comply with.”

93. That we never would lose sight of the treaty of Paris; but that we could not believe that treaty could be construed to obstruct any proper measures which might be necessary for the Company's security, or the safety of the Carnatic.

94. Our Proceedings being voluminous, it was out of our power to have them copied in time to accompany this Letter; they were however afterwards transmitted to them, together with every paper that could be of assistance to them in forming their judgment.

95. The Resolutions the Governor-General and Council of Bengal came to, on taking this subject into consideration, as well as the directions to us in consequence, will be fully treated of in the latter part of this address.

96. It is however necessary to remark, that on application to Mr. Benfield and Mr. De Souza, two gentlemen who were well qualified, from their extensive dealings in the Tanjore country, to inform us, we found that the village accounts were still in the respective villages in that country, although Lord Pigot had repeatedly declared they were carried out of it by the express orders of the Nabob.

97. On the 17th of June, Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Messieurs Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, delivered in a joint Minute on the subject of our proceedings relative to Tanjore.

98. Mr. Jourdan gave in a separate one likewise on the same day, containing a sketch of what, he was of opinion, might be effected for the security and advantage of the Company, the Nabob, and the Rajah. To these Minutes we beg you will be referred.

99. At

99. At the same Meeting that these Minutes were delivered in, Lord Pigot moved the following Questions: " That it was the opinion of the Board, the Letter from the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes was written purposely to create animosity between the Members of this Government."

100. This was carried in the affirmative by Lord Pigot's casting voice.

101. The Members against it were Messieurs Mackay, Jourdan, Palmer, Floyer, Sir Robert Fletcher, and Mr. Stratton.

102. Lord Pigot then continued: " After such a Letter as that written by the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes, and after the sentiments he (Lord Pigot) expressed in reply to Sir Edward Hughes, as well as what passed in debate upon the subject, he did hope the impropriety, nay indecency, of visiting the Nabob under such circumstances, would strike every Member of the Council; and therefore, agreeably to the standing orders of the Company, recommended, that no Member of the Council should henceforth visit, or correspond by writing, or by message, with the Nabob or either of his sons; and the more particularly so, as he was informed the Nabob had been made acquainted with the late proceedings of the Board; and he thought it very improper any Member of the Council should be liable to the slightest suspicion of divulging to the Nabob the proceedings of Government."

103. This Question was likewise carried in the affirmative by Lord Pigot's casting Vote.

104. Those Members who were against it, Messieurs Mackay, Jourdan, Palmer, Floyer, and Sir Robert Fletcher, arguing, that the Court of Directors did not mean the Nabob should be prevented from seeing any person whatever, much less Members of this Government; that those orders were only to be understood, that all correspondence with the Nabob, or other country powers, or *their affairs*, should be carried on in the name of the President.

105. That making an order, that Members of the Council should not visit the Nabob, would be extremely improper, and more especially at a time when accusations from the Nabob against Lord Pigot were laying before the Board; that such a Motion implied strong suspicions of Members of Government; and that the Nabob having expressed strong apprehensions

prehenfions for his own personal fafety, fuch apprehenfions would naturally be increafed by fuch an order:

106. Lord Pigot then represented to the Board many difficulties that attended the constant refidence of the Nabob within the Company's bounds, and moved, "As he was defirous to avoid every occafion of giving difguft to the Nabob, and as circumftances *would* occur daily to increafe his difcontent whilft he remained here, that it be recommended to the Nabob to refide at Arcot, as the moft effectual method of preventing mifunderftandings."

107. This Motion made by Lord Pigot met, as you will naturally conceive, with ftrong oppofition, and, upon being put to the vote, was carried in the negative by a Majority of Seven to Five.

108. The Majority who were againft it argued, that the inconveniences which would arife from it were infinite, without there being the appearance of the leaft poffible advantage to the Company's affairs. That in cafe of refusal compulfatory meafures could not be ufed towards the Nabob, who had refided here fo many years. That from fuch a ftep it muft appear, not only to the Nabob, but to the whole world, that in confequence of the late unhappy mifunderftandings between him and Lord Pigot, we had become diftrufeful of his friendship, that we were alfo diftrufeful of one another, and that we were inclined to offer indignity to his perfon, whenever he fhould think it advifable to differ in opinion upon any matter which might concern himfelf or Government; and that it would tend to difguft him againft the Company's Government, and help to alienate that ftrong friendship and alliance which had fo happily fubfifted between the Company and his Highnefs.

109. Further reafons are adduced in fupport of this opinion, in Confultation 24th June, when feveral Minutes and Diffents were entered, relative to the Queftion on which it was founded, as alfo to the preceding ones moved the fame day by his Lordfhip, as before mentioned, to which we request your particular attention.

110. Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Meflieurs Brooke, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, likewise gave in a Minute on the fame day, remarking, that "Lord Pigot having been pleafed, in his reply to the complaints laid before the Board by Sir Edward Hughes, to acknowledge firft, that of having threatened to place a guard near the Nabob's perfon, and fecondly, that of having ordered a party of Seapoys to
" march

“ march in the night to St. Thomé for another particular purpose, it
 “ became a duty incumbent on them to give their opinions upon those
 “ points, lest their silence should pass for an applied approbation, and
 “ on that approbation a *precedent might* afterwards be founded and
 “ pleaded in similar cases.” They then proceed to give their sentiments
 on those points, to which we beg you will be referred.

111. After this Minute your Honors will perceive the following
 Question moved by Mr. Mackay :

112. “ As the Resolution on the Nabob’s Letter to Sir Edward
 “ Hughes was carried by the President’s casting Vote, though, in Mr.
 “ Mackay’s opinion, a party concerned, and though the opinion of one
 “ of the Members for that Question (Mr. Brooke) appeared doubtful,
 “ Mr. Mackay moved, that the Resolution be rescinded.”

113. Which Question was followed by Sir Robert Fletcher’s repre-
 senting to the Board, “ That he had had the Records examined, and
 “ could find no such standing order of the Company as was quoted by
 “ Lord Pigot, and upon which he imagined *some* of the Members of
 “ the Board were induced to vote for his Lordship’s second Motion.
 “ Sir Robert Fletcher further observed, That upon considering atten-
 “ tively the words in which that Motion was conceived, he found that
 “ Members of the Board might be thought by some (though innocently)
 “ to offend against the Resolution which passed upon that Motion,
 “ merely because they did not, and in his opinion could not, shut their
 “ doors in the faces of the Nabob and his sons when they happened to drop
 “ in of an evening on a visit ; and as for himself, he repeated, that there
 “ were frequent complaints made to him from the out-garrisons of dis-
 “ putes between the officers under his command and the Nabob’s officers,
 “ and against some of the Company’s officers in the Nabob’s service, upon
 “ points of duty ; that these, in consequence of a message from the Com-
 “ mander in Chief to the Nabob, or to one of his sons, or a message
 “ from one of them to the Commander in Chief, were in general amica-
 “ bly settled by him.”

114. For all these reasons, Sir Robert Fletcher hopes the impropriety
 of the Resolution on Lord Pigot’s second Motion, viz. “ That no Mem-
 “ ber of Council do henceforth visit, or correspond by writing, or by
 “ message, with the Nabob or either of his sons,” would strike every
 Member of the Board, and therefore moved, “ That that Resolution
 “ should be rescinded.”

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115. As

115. As Mr. Dawson had been present when the above-mentioned Questions, moved by Lord Pigot, were resolved in the affirmative, it was agreed, at the desire of Lord Pigot, to summon Mr. Dawson, who had taken his final leave of the Board in order to proceed to Europe, to attend the next Council, when the foregoing Motions of Mr. Mackay and Sir Robert Fletcher should be taken into consideration.

116. In the mean time Mr. Dalrymple gave in a Minute on the proceedings relative to Tanjore, entered in Consultation 1st July.

117. On the 8th July Sir Robert Fletcher desired that his Motion for rescinding the Resolution of the 17th June, on Lord Pigot's second Question, relative to Members of the Council not visiting or receiving messages from the Nabob or either of his sons, might be taken into consideration.

118. Lord Pigot then observed, that the Resolution of Council the 17th June, that Members of the Board should not visit, or receive messages from the Nabob or his sons, was grounded on the reasons which were given in his Minute preceding that Motion.

119. That it was true he had, at the desire of Mr. Brooke, given his consent to the reconsideration of the Resolution of the 29th May, on the Nabob and Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country, because that private property was then concerned; but as no such matter was affected by the Resolution of the 17th June, and because the rescinding such Resolution would only increase the difficulties he had found in conducting the business of the Company with the Nabob, he declared he never would give his consent that the Question moved by Sir Robert Fletcher should be put. He at the same time observed, that he was certain of acting on that occasion with perfect consistency. That during the many years he had been in the service, he had always known the business of the Board originate with the President, who was undoubtedly the properest person to lay before them such subjects as required their consideration.

120. Lord Pigot refusing in this manner to put the Question proposed by Sir Robert Fletcher for rescinding the Resolution passed on his Lordship's second Motion- 17th June, the Majority thought it incumbent on them to record their opinions on the occasion; in every respect disapproving of Lord Pigot's conduct, and declaring, "That his Lordship ought not to refuse putting the Question, and that the Resolution should be rescinded."

121. Joint

121. Joint and separate Minutes were entered by them on the occasion, to which we beg you will be referred.

122. Lord Pigot then declared, " That, from the constitution of the service, he was well convinced no person but himself *could agitate a Question at the Board*. That he had ever known that *right vested solely* in the President, who was always supposed the best judge of what Questions were or were not fit for the benefit of the Company's affairs, and who, if a Question should be proposed which to him should appear productive of bad consequences, had *an undoubted right to prevent that Question's being put*."

123. This was on the 8th of July ; on the 9th we, the Members of the present Government, gave in the following Minute :

124. " The President, Lord Pigot, having at two former Consultations asserted a *right to adjourn* the Council, contrary to the opinion of the Majority of the Board, having in the civil department *refused to put a previous Question* (which was moved) although desired by many of the Board, who had not had time to consider of the proposition laid before them, having at the last Meeting *refused to put a Question regularly moved for rescinding a former Resolution of Council*, and having asserted, that *a resolution of the Majority of the Board could not be carried into execution without his concurrence*, in the latter of which he was supported by Mr. Dalrymple ; we thought it incumbent upon us to express the astonishment as well as concern we felt at hearing such doctrines, to declare in the strongest terms, that such claims were incompatible with the rights of the other Members of this Government, and that many dangerous consequences might ensue from the admission of such unconstitutional, and, we were sorry to add, arbitrary principles. We knew that the Government was vested in a Majority of the Board, and that that Majority might exist whether the President were of it or not. Duty to our Masters and to our country, regard to those who were placed under this Government, and our own honor, required that we should never give up any of the rights intrusted to us by the constitution. We know our rights, but we sincerely hoped never to be driven to the painful necessity of exerting them ; and on that occasion we hoped it would suffice, that the opinions of the Majority of the Board being for rescinding the Resolution upon the second Motion of Lord Pigot the 17th June, that the same was legally, though not in the usual form, rescinded."

125. Mr.

125. Mr. Dalrymple then thought it was a proper occasion to observe,
“ That from a careful perusal of the Company’s Commission of Govern-
ment, he found, that the Council were appointed the better to enable
the Governor to manage the affairs of the Company, that he therefore
could not think the Council were, either by the letter or spirit of
that Commission, intended to manage the Company’s affairs without
the Governor.”

126. On the 25th June, a Letter was laid before the Board by Brigadier-General Sir Robert Fletcher, addressed to him by Colonel Stuart, wherein Colonel Stuart submits it to the consideration of the Commander in Chief, if it were not proper, for the reasons he assigns, that the Board would be pleased to appoint him to the command of the fort and garrison of Tanjore.

127. No resolution was come to on that day, the Letter was ordered to lie upon the table for consideration.

128. The 9th of July, Sir Robert Fletcher, for the reasons assigned in Colonel Stuart’s Letter, and because he wished to have his sentiments upon the state of the fort and country of Tanjore, with respect to their defence, particularly as it was rumoured armaments were fitted out from France, recommended that Colonel Stuart should be appointed to the command of Tanjore.

129. Colonel Stuart was accordingly appointed, though Lord Pigot, and Messieurs Russell, Dalrymple, and Stone, opposed it to the utmost of their power.

130. A draught of instructions to Colonel Stuart, in consequence of his appointment, was laid before the Board by the Commander in Chief the 30th July, which instructions, though not disapproved in any respect by Lord Pigot or any other Member, were ordered to lie for consideration, and for his Lordship to make any additions which he might think necessary.

131. Although nominated the 9th July, it was not until the 1st August that Colonel Stuart was officially acquainted therewith, and ordered to hold himself in readiness to proceed to Tanjore.

132. Sir Robert Fletcher not being able to attend Council from indisposition, enclosed to the Secretary 19th August a paper of fresh instructions

instructions for Colonel Stuart, which he desired might be laid before the Board for their consideration, his Lordship having kept the former draught.

133. They were on that day accordingly laid before us, when Lord Pigot remarked, that " He had frequently repeated to the Board his earnest wish that they would permit Mr. Russell to proceed to Tanjore, if it were even for a few days ; that he was so fully convinced of the necessity of that measure, the Rajah and the country being in the greatest distress, that he was forced in the strongest terms to urge his former desire, that Mr. Russell might have their permission to go in the manner he before recommended to them. This he was in hopes the Board would acquiesce in, and the more so, as he had at a former Consultation declared, *he never could give his consent* to Colonel Stuart's going to Tanjore, until the Board should have likewise resolved, that Mr. Russell should proceed thither according to his appointment." 19th August.

134. The sense of the Board was then taken upon the above, when a majority of six to four were against Mr. Russell's going to Tanjore, because he was appointed by the Company a Member of the Committee of Circuit, and because this matter had been strenuously agitated in the civil department, when a Resolution passed, that he and Mr. Dalrymple should set off on that service the 31st August.

135. Whereupon the draught of instructions being read, Lord Pigot observed, that " Having repeatedly recommended to the Board the propriety, not to say necessity, of Mr. Russell's going to Tanjore, he then declared, *he never would give his sanction* to any instructions to Colonel Stuart until that measure was adopted."

136. Mr. Floyer then desired the question might be put to the Board, to take into consideration the above draught of instructions to Colonel Stuart.

137. Lord Pigot however opposed it, and declared, " For the reasons he had before assigned, that *he would not put the question at that time.*"

138. Lord Pigot having in this manner *refused to put the question* moved by Mr. Floyer, and it being a matter of the greatest consequence to be determined, whether the President had a right to *refuse* putting
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any question proposed, the consideration of it was deferred until the next day.

20th August. 139. Being assembled the next morning in consequence of adjournment, Mr. Mackay recorded an opinion to the following effect : " That the President (Lord Pigot) having refused to put the question moved by Mr. Floyer, viz. to take into consideration the draught of instructions to Colonel Stuart, he thought it necessary to enter his opinion, that the Board should then proceed to take into consideration the said instructions."

140. Mr. Jourdan subscribed to this opinion.

141. Lord Pigot then declared, " That having *determined not to give his consent* to Colonel Stuart's going to Tanjore, until Mr. Russell should be ordered to proceed thither likewise, *he would not allow the matter to be then agitated at the Board.*"

142. Upon which Lord Pigot was requested by Mr. Stratton in the most earnest manner to put the question, as it was perfectly consistent with the constitution and rules of the service; but this he still declined, upon the same principles that he had before advanced.

143. Finding his Lordship thus obstinate in his refusal *to put the question*, we were under the necessity, as the only alternative left us, to record our opinions separately approving of the instructions.

144. The instructions were accordingly approved by a Majority of the Board, and transcribed fair for signing, together with a Letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, directing him to deliver over the command of Tanjore to Colonel Stuart on his arrival there.

145. On these Letters being presented to Lord Pigot to be signed, he declared, that " Conformably to what he had before said, he would not put his name to them. That having made use of every argument in his power to dissuade the Majority of the Council from attempting to carry this measure into execution *without his concurrence*, so he thought it his duty to the Company, his friendship to the different Members, and his regard to the good order and government of the Settlement, to desire that they would not proceed further therein; and to declare, as his opinion, that *without his name* to those orders, they were not the *Act of Government*, and men executing such orders might

“ might be liable to difficulties, which he wished the different Members
 “ to be as sensible of as himself.”

146. The same moderation and forbearance which we had hitherto
 observed prevailed on us in this instance to adjourn the Council.

147. Two days after, the Board being assembled, we gave in a Mi- 22d August.
 nute to the following purport: “ That Lord Pigot having *refused*, in
 “ Consultation 19th August, *to put the question* for taking into confi-
 “ deration the instructions to Colonel Stuart, we declared, that we con-
 “ sidered such *refusal* as inconsistent with the rules of the service, and
 “ *tending to subvert the Constitution*; but unwilling to proceed in haste on
 “ a matter of so much importance, that we had moved the adjournment
 “ of Council till the next day, when we still found his Lordship asserting
 “ doctrines destructive of the principles of the constitution. That we
 “ could not but express our astonishment at such extraordinary decla-
 “ rations as he then made. We denied that the *concurrence* of the Presi-
 “ dent was necessary to constitute an *Act of Government*; and we declared
 “ his *conduct* to be *unconstitutional and illegal*. We had not a doubt that
 “ the Minority of the Board were *obliged* to assist in carrying *into exe-*
 “ *cution* the orders of the Majority, and that the President was as much
 “ *bound* by those orders, as any other Member of the Board. But as
 “ he had thought proper, contrary to the established rules of the service,
 “ to *declare positively* he *would not sign* the instructions to Colonel Stuart,
 “ though those instructions had been *approved* by a Majority of the Board,
 “ and *thereby* became an *Act of Government*; yet, willing to give fur-
 “ ther time for the consideration of so weighty a matter, he had moved
 “ the adjournment of Council. Previous however to the prosecution
 “ of the business in question, as a *refusal to put questions* would retard, if
 “ not *totally stop the execution* of every measure not conformable to his
 “ Lordship’s sentiments, we declared we were of opinion, that in
 “ any case of the President’s *refusal* to put a question proposed by any
 “ Member, it was the duty of the secretary to put *that* question,
 “ beginning first with the youngest Member, and the duty of every
 “ Member of Council to *answer* such question; and that a *refusal to*
 “ *answer* should be deemed a *breach of the Company’s* standing orders.

148. And to elucidate the points in question, we annexed extracts
 from Mr. Vansittart’s narration, wherein that gentleman, who was well
 acquainted with the constitution of your service, expressly declares, that
 he signed instructions when Governor of Bengal which he disapproved,
 acting therein conformably to the established rule of the service, which
 is,

is, " That every Member shall sign the public orders and records, " entering his dissent when he differs in opinion from the Majority ; " and that the " Resolutions of the Majority were to be deemed the Resolutions of the Board, and to be signed by the whole Board." Narrative, vol. ii. p. 233 ; vol. iii. p. 137. Mr. Floyer likewise stated to us a circumstance immediately in point, when Mr. Cartier, the then Governor of Bengal, and Mr. Russell and himself, met with the pointed resentment of the Court of Directors for their conduct in opposition to a Majority of the Council. The Minutes given in by Mr. Floyer on this occasion make a number in the packet, and merit your particular attention.

149. Lord Pigot then addressed himself to us in the following words :

150. " The Majority having proceeded so far on Tuesday last, as to bring the instructions to Colonel Stuart, and the Letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, to the point of signing, and he, the President, having refused to put his name thereto, recommending that the gentlemen of the Majority would please to consider whether it were not prudent in them to proceed no further ; and remarking, at the same time, what difficulties men were liable to executing such orders, as in his opinion were not an Act of Government, without his name being affixed to them. And having had the satisfaction then to find, that the several Members wished to give this matter full consideration, by desiring an adjournment of two days, and receiving now the still greater satisfaction of finding no gentleman urge the prosecution thereof, he, the President, hopes that he may be so fortunate as to meet the Board inclined to let this matter rest until the pleasure of their Honorable Masters is known, and therefore recommends that they will do so. The President further adds, that it seems to him quite necessary that something decisive should make its appearance before our Honorable Masters, that they may not, on the arrival of the Grenville, remain with fears that this is a fore only patched up, ready to break out afresh to the great detriment and bad government of their affairs."

151. Having already given our opinion, approving of the instructions to Colonel Stuart, and reflecting on the tendency of the arguments and declarations made by his Lordship in support of his having the power to put a negative upon all acts of the Majority he did not approve, and that, by virtue of such negative, no measure of the Majority of the Board could be deemed an Act of Government, and consequently could not be carried into execution ; we resolved, if his Lordship should still persist in his

his refusal to sign the instructions, that they should be signed by the Secretary by order of the Council.

152. Having thus given our opinion, we called on Lord Pigot in a joint Minute which we all signed, to direct the Secretary to sign the Letters to Colonel Stuart and Lieutenant-Colonel Harper; and on his refusing to give such directions, we declared we looked upon ourselves, being a Majority, as authorized to order him to sign them, and accordingly wrote the following Letter:

To Mr. Secretary Sullivan.

SIR,

“ WE, the Majority of the Board, having approved of the instructions to Colonel Stuart and the Letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, and the President not only having refused to sign them himself, but also refused to order you to do it, we are reduced to the disagreeable necessity of directing you to sign the said Instructions and Letter by Order of Council, and send them to Colonel Stuart.

Fort St. George,
22d August 1776.

(Signed), GEORGE STRATTON,
HENRY BROOKE.

153. As soon as this Letter was signed by Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke, Lord Pigot snatched it out of the hand of the latter, as he was passing it round to the other Members of the Majority for their signatures, and at the same instant, taking a paper out of his pocket, observed to the Board, “ That having frequently entreated them not to carry this matter further, but to wait the determination of the Court of Directors, he would now stop it where it was; and then read the contents of the paper as followeth:”

154. “ I charge George Stratton and Henry Brooke, Esquires, of being guilty of an act subversive of the authority of Government, and tending to introduce anarchy, in the signing orders to the Secretary to give instructions to Colonel Stuart, which have not been approved and passed by the President and Council.”

155. Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke thereupon thought it necessary to record, that they would not admit of the foregoing being a charge, as it
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was for their signing a paper agreed upon by the Majority of the Board, as expressed by Messieurs Stratton, Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, who were on the point of signing the order, had they not been prevented by Lord Pigot's snatching the paper in the manner above-mentioned.

156. As the Minute given in by Lord Pigot contained, as he expressed himself, a charge of the highest nature against Messieurs Stratton and Brooke, he recommended, that those gentlemen should be ordered to withdraw, that their conduct might be taken into consideration.

157. Mr. Jourdan moved, and Mr. Mackay seconded the Motion, that the Board should adjourn till the next morning at ten o'clock.

158. This Motion however was not attended to by Lord Pigot, who, as soon as it had been written down by the Secretary, moved that the Board should come to the following Resolution :

159. "Resolved, That George Stratton and Henry Brooke, Esquires, be now suspended from the Company's service until the Company's pleasure shall be known."

Mr. Mackay, against the resolution.

Mr. Jourdan, against the resolution.

Mr. Palmer, against the resolution.

Mr. Stone, for the resolution.

Mr. Floyer, against the resolution.

Mr. Dalrymple, for the resolution.

Mr. Russell, for the resolution.

160. The Secretary was here ordered by Lord Pigot "To take no vote either from Mr. Brooke or Mr. Stratton on the question before the Board, as the standing orders of the Company direct, that no Member shall sit in Council when a charge is delivered in against him."

The President, Lord Pigot, for the Resolution.

And as, on casting up the votes, it appeared they were equal four to four, the President desired that it might be recorded, that, besides his vote, he gave his casting voice for the Resolution.

161. It was carried accordingly for the Resolution by Lord Pigot's casting voice.

162. It

162. It is however here necessary to remark to your Honors, that the reason of our giving any vote whatsoever on so extraordinary a question, proceeded from our conviction, that if we had refused to vote, Lord Pigot would have contented himself with the votes of his three friends and his own, and have deemed them sufficient to carry this illegal attempt to suspend Messieurs Stratton and Brooke; and we were positive in point of legality, by voting upon the question we should have frustrated so daring an attempt to suspend those two gentlemen upon this ground, that if the accused were prevented voting, the admission of the accuser's vote, upon the same principle, could not possibly have been admitted.

163. Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke delivered in Minutes on the occasion against the Resolution; but the Secretary being ordered by his Lordship not to take either the vote of Mr. Stratton or of Mr. Brooke, those Minutes were omitted in the Consultation in consequence of positive directions from his Lordship.

164. A protest against the illegality of the proceedings, which those gentlemen wrote at the time, was likewise omitted by his Lordship's orders, who with his own hand scratched out the Minutes made by the Secretary in consequence in the draught of the Consultation of that day.

165. Messieurs Mackay, Jourdan, Palmer, and Floyer solemnly protested against Lord Pigot, and those gentlemen who were for the Resolution, declaring the measures to be the most arbitrary ever known at a Board under an English Government, and solely intended *in an illegal manner to get rid of the votes of those gentlemen*, that his Lordship might form a Majority for himself.

166. His Lordship however then adjourned the Council until the next morning at eleven o'clock, although we kept our seats, and declared to his Lordship unanimously, that the proceedings against Messieurs Brooke and Stratton were so *pointedly illegal and unjust*, that we should, notwithstanding his attempt to suspend them, consider them as Members of the Council in like manner as ourselves.

167. On the afternoon of the 22d August, the day on which this happened, Lord Pigot directed the Secretary to send round a *special summons* for the Members of the Board to assemble in Council the next morning.

168. In

168. In this summons however Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke were not included, although the names of all the others were inserted, as well as that of Mr. Richard Lathom, Chief of Cuddalore, who had been at the Presidency for several days without ever having been desired to attend the Board.

169. In this distracted state of the Government, when Lord Pigot was by a most unparalleled act, attempting to usurp all our constitutional rights, although we had observed the utmost moderation to avoid coming to extremities, we thought it expedient to write a Letter of protest to his Lordship and the other gentlemen, who had voted for the suspension of Messieurs Stratton and Brooke.

23d August.

170. We informed them, " That we, whose names were underwritten, being of Council, and constituting a Majority thereof, taking into our most serious consideration the proceedings upon record at the two last meetings, and more particularly the unexampled outrage offered to the constitution, and arbitrary behaviour towards two of our number, by an illegal attempt to suspend them, in order by a trick to gain a Majority, were of opinion, that the public safety was in danger by the conduct of Lord Pigot, Messieurs Russell, Dalrymple, and Stone, who had supported, and by every person who should continue to support such measures, and we should hold them responsible for all the consequences that might ensue. That we the Majority considered ourselves as the only legal representatives of the Honorable Company under the Presidency, and as such we had not a doubt but all the servants of the Company would regard us. That for these reasons, and the evident illegality of the summons to Council for that morning, in which were omitted the names of Mr. George Stratton and Mr. Henry Brooke, two legal Members of the Board, we could not, consistently with the duty we owed to our Honorable Employers, attend the said summons."

171. We likewise judged it necessary to inform the Governor-General and Council of Bengal of the alarming state of your affairs under this Government, and accordingly addressed them a Letter on the subject, to which we beg you will be referred.

23d August.

172. This Letter was conveyed to him under cover of a packet transmitted to that Presidency by Commodore Sir Edward Hughes, who had informed us he would forward it to them in that manner.

173. By these measures it is evident his Lordship's views were, in an illegal and arbitrary manner, to secure a Majority, without which he knew his schemes could not be carried into execution. We found ourselves under the necessity either of passively giving up our own rights, and the known constitution of Government, *and of becoming accessaries in all the evil consequences which might ensue*, or by separating shew, by the Letter we sent by the hands of the Notary Public, that, as a Majority of the Council, we were resolved in this extremity to maintain the constitutional rights of the Company, and to signify to all the Company's servants and dependents that we required from them submission to our legal orders.

174. In consequence of this public act on our part, Lord Pigot proceeded immediately to *the violent measure* of ordering the Commander in Chief under arrest, and of issuing Letters of suspension to each of us, Messieurs Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, who, with Messieurs Stratton and Brooke, composed the legal Majority of the Council.

175. At this time we had in full view, and under our most serious consideration, the critical situation which the public affairs might be brought into, by the violent and arbitrary proceedings of a President such as Lord Pigot, who, from his commission and local residence, was also Governor of the fort and garrison, if time and opportunity had been left him to influence the military in support of his illegal Government.

176. We also considered the very great probability that the remaining part of the army, not under the orders of Lord Pigot, perceiving the violence and injustice done to their Commander in chief, who was ordered in arrest for supporting the civil constitution of the Company, and well knowing that the army in general, as well as every impartial person in the Settlement, were fully convinced that a Resolution of the Majority of the Council was to them the only legal act of Government. We say therefore, that deliberating with anxious minds upon the chance of such a dreadful crisis, as that the fort and garrison of Fort St. George, with an arbitrary passionate man at their head, might possibly be separated from the rest of the Company's possessions on this Coast, and, that the Nabob of the Carnatic, who is the ally of the Crown of Great Britain and the Company, and who intrusts himself, his family and fortune, to the protection of the Fort, might by our passive delay be abandoned to the person whom he has reason to believe his bitterest enemy; and deliberating further on the many dangerous consequences which might result

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and affect the safety of the State, if not the very existence of the Company on this Coast; we could not hesitate a moment to resume the executive powers of Government, in which we conceived ourselves warranted not only by the legal constitution of the Company, but also by the supreme law of necessity.

177. When we reflect on the very alarming and critical alternative to which the despotic violence of Lord Pigot had compelled us, that of submitting to an expulsion from your Government by a Minority of Members, and tamely surrendering ourselves to the dishonor, infidelity, and baseness of deserting our trust, giving up the Nabob of the Carnatic, the ally of his Majesty and the friend of the Company, to his inveterate and bitter enemy to be treated with disgrace, under which he had declared he could not nor would not survive; and giving up also perhaps the life of your Commander in Chief to an illegal and compulsory trial; or the alternative of attempting to rescue your Government at the risk of a convulsion: when we reflect on those alternatives, to the desperate choice of which we were left on the morning of the 24th of August, and when we now consider how happily the peace of the colony and the administration of your affairs have been extricated from dangers so imminent, we can never sufficiently approve the conduct of Colonel Stuart, who so ably and faithfully discharged his duty to you and your legal representatives upon so trying an occasion. Indeed we are at a loss which most to admire, his generous self-denial, in not accepting directly the command of the army from Lord Pigot, or the very masterly manner in which he executed our determination. Our Secretary, Mr. Sullivan, declares, that in the whole conversation which passed between Colonel Stuart and Lord Pigot and his Counsellors in the Council Room on the evening of the 23d about his accepting the command, that he never heard him come to a direct acceptance of it; on the contrary, that the conversation of Colonel Stuart was so exceedingly evasive as to cause him to remark the purport of it to Mr. Oakely, our Civil Secretary, a few minutes after Lord Pigot and Colonel Stuart had left the Council Chamber; Mr. Sullivan in particular recollects, that Colonel Stuart laid great stress on these words,—“It is true I have been passively Commander in Chief by your orders, but I have yet executed no duty of the Commander in Chief.” The singular address which he afterwards shewed in conducting his Lordship to arrest, was not only warranted by the occasion, but was absolutely necessary to the success of the undertaking. What was so necessary to the success of an undertaking, on which the peace of the colony and the Carnatic so apparently depended, cannot but reflect honor on the conduct of

of a foldier executing his orders. Lord Pigot was in that crisis dangerous to the State, and in actual opposition to the authority which constituted his powers; but whose orders he had superseded, and whose system he had violated, without even the pretext of connecting those measures with the supposed idea of your interest. We have directed Colonel Stuart to give us a faithful narrative of the manner in which he executed our orders, copy of which shall wait on your Honors a number in the packet, together with his Letter of the 24th August to Lord Pigot.

178. The orders we gave to Colonel Stuart were to the following effect: That uncertain to what further excess Lord Pigot might proceed unless timely prevented, we thought it our duty, if necessary, to arrest his person, and in consequence that we empowered him (Colonel Stuart) on whom, during the unhappy indisposition of Sir Robert Fletcher, we conferred the command of the army as well as of the garrison of Fort St. George, during the present danger, to take such measures as to him should appear proper to place the Fort, Garrison, and Fort-house, under our command, so that the public tranquillity might be restored, and the business of the Honorable Company carried on in the usual manner. That we further ordered and directed him, if he saw necessary, to arrest the person of Lord Pigot, or of any other person who should obstruct him in the execution of our orders; and that for these salutary purposes we directed all the Company's servants, civil or military, and all persons who lived under the protection of this Government, to give him every aid and assistance in their power.

179. In consequence of these our orders, Colonel Stuart arrested the person of Lord Pigot, and delivered him into the charge of Major Horne, commanding at St. Thomas's Mount, with positive directions that his Lordship should be treated with every mark of attention and respect.

180. On the report of Colonel Stuart, that Lord Pigot was in arrest at the Mount, and that all the military officers in the fort had declared it to be their duty and resolution to obey all orders they might receive from us, the Majority of the Council, or the Majority for the time being, we immediately repaired to the Council Chamber in the Fort-house, and having assembled the military officers of the garrison, read to them our Proclamation on the occasion, when they unanimously confirmed to us the report of Colonel Stuart. A copy of the proclamation comes a number in the packet.

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181. The next morning likewise all the Company's servants, both civil and military, and the inhabitants, being assembled at the Council Chamber, the Proclamation was read to them, and copies of it issued to all the subordinacies and out-garrisons.

182. Taking into consideration the very illegal and unconstitutional conduct observed by Messieurs Russell, Dalrymple, and Stone, in the support they gave to every measure of Lord Pigot, but particularly in the attempt to expel us, the Majority of the Board, which convinced us no dependence could be placed in them, and considering likewise how much the Company had suffered through the conduct they had pursued, we found ourselves reduced to the necessity of suspending them from your service.

25th August.

183. Mr. Richard Lathom likewise having concurred in opinion with Lord Pigot, Messieurs Russell, Dalrymple, and Stone, for the illegal attempt to suspend Messieurs Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, and in the Resolution of ordering Brigadier-General Sir Robert Fletcher under arrest, and thereby admitting the legality of the supposed suspensions of Messieurs Stratton and Brooke on the 22d August, as well as his having concurred in the other measures recited in the examination of Mr. Secretary Sullivan, we unanimously resolved to suspend him also from the service of the Company until your pleasure should be known.

27th August.

184. Having received information from Colonel Stuart, that he had reason to apprehend there was some tampering with the troops stationed at St. Thomas's Mount by persons in the interest of Lord Pigot and his associates, we could not but be anxious for the consequences which might ensue; taking therefore into our most serious consideration the many evils that might arise from the violent dispositions manifested by Lord Pigot's associates since his removal to the Mount, their indefatigable pursuits in attempting to sow disaffection as well in the civil as the military servants of the Company within the fort, the attempt made by Mr. Claud Russell to stir up sedition amongst the troops in garrison, together with the apprehension expressed by Colonel Stuart, were circumstances which afforded too great cause of suspicion that Lord Pigot and others would persist in the measure of seducing the troops at the Mount, and that his Lordship's residence there might furnish the ready means of creating disturbances. The fortress of Chingleput, distant about thirty-six miles from Madras, appearing in every respect a more eligible place for Lord Pigot's residence during his being under arrest, as well in point of
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the salubriety of that place, as in his being removed at such a distance from the fort of Madras, as to render any attempts that might be made by his Lordship and friends for disturbing the public tranquillity much more difficult than it might be in his residence at the Mount; we were therefore of opinion, that Lord Pigot should, as soon as possible, be removed to Chingleput; and in order that his Lordship might meet with every possible mark of respect and attention, and for his better residence there, we appointed a field-officer to the command of that garrison.

185. Lieutenant-Colonel Edington, Adjutant-General, was accordingly employed to receive his Lordship from Major Horne at the Mount; his Lordship however peremptorily refused going, and that in such a manner as will clearly evince you the violence of his Lordship's disposition. Copies of the affidavits of Colonel Edington and Serjeant Shaw now wait on you numbers in the Packet for that purpose.

186. We were extremely concerned to find, that in consequence of this 28th August. Resolution a report should have been propagated by Lord Pigot and his friends, that he was to have been removed to Gingee; we accordingly took the earliest opportunity of assuring him by Letter, that no such idea ever did or ever could occur to us. We likewise made him an offer of removing to any Settlement upon the coast that he should give a preference to, where there was a Chief and Council, provided he would pledge his word of honor to remain in quietness within the bounds of such Settlement until your pleasure should be known concerning his Lordship's conduct and our's respectively. That if his Lordship should be pleased to consent to this proposal, we should order the best house in such Settlement to be prepared for his reception, that every necessary be furnished him at the Company's expense, and that every respect and attention be paid to his person. We at the same time thought it necessary to add, that if his Lordship should prefer embarking for Europe on one of the Company's ships, we would order him every accommodation in our power.

187. The information we had of the declarations made by Lord Pigot to the military, which, added to the very violent and irregular proceedings of Mr. Russell, who on the day of our resuming the Government had endeavoured to put the main guard of the garrison under arms, and was by force brought from thence before the Council, where he publicly denied our authority; knowing moreover, by our experience, the violent temper of Lord Pigot, who, if at liberty, would run every risk to recover the Government; these circumstances forced us, contrary to our private feelings, to use an expression to Major Horne, "As your last resource,

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" in any attempt to rescue Lord Pigot, his life must answer for it, and " this you are to signify to him ;" which we imagined would deter Lord Pigot's friends and family from encouraging any attempts towards his rescue; however we lost no time to make Lord Pigot and his family easy on that subject, as was evident from our intention to remove his Lordship to Chingleput, and by our Letter to him of the 28th August ; but in truth there could be no doubt in his Lordship's breast of the humane good feelings of Major Horne, to whom, *in terrorem*, this part of the order was given purposely to be communicated to Lord Pigot, only that he might prevent any attempts to rescue him; and we think it has had the effect we looked for.

188. The affidavits of Lieutenant-Colonel Edington and Serjeant Shaw gave us every reason to believe, that if Lord Pigot had it in his power, he would not only have raised a mutiny in the army, but put himself at the head of an armed party, and march with them to the Fort, though he fell in the attempt ;—needed there any other argument for persons in our responsible situation to take every means possible, though at times with strong expressions, to prevent any attempts, however fruitless, to involve this Settlement in convulsion and civil war?

189. To the Letter above-mentioned, which we addressed to his Lordship, we have as yet received no reply, so that his Lordship's continuance at the Mount, in preference to any other of the Settlements of the Company on the Coast, or to embarking on board one of their ships for Europe, is a matter entirely of his own choice.

28th August. 190. On the same day that we wrote to Lord Pigot, we received a Letter from Sir Edward Hughes, informing us, that Lord Pigot had claimed the protection of the King's flag, and in consequence, that he required in his Majesty's name, that Major Horne should be ordered to give his Lordship safe conduct to his Majesty's ship the Salisbury.

26th August. 191. Previous to the receipt of this Letter, we had explained to Sir Edward Hughes, in the fullest manner, the situation that affairs were in, and the causes which had driven us to the necessity of putting Lord Pigot in arrest, as your Honors will be pleased to observe on reference to our Letter to Sir Edward of the 26th August.

4th September. 192. In consequence of the above requisition of Sir Edward Hughes, we informed him, that having taken his Letter into our most serious consideration, we thought it necessary, before we returned a precise and positive

positive answer, to request he would be pleased to inform us, what security he could give us, who were intrusted with the interests and affairs of the Company under this Presidency, and with the preservation of the public peace, that the tranquillity of the Coast, so perfectly established, should not be endangered by our consenting to the removal of Lord Pigot from under our own authority.

193. To this Sir Edward replied, that the requisition and safe conduct for Lord Pigot to his ship being made by him in the name of the King, and as no terms could therefore be admitted on which to ground a compliance with that requisition, it followed, that no other answer could be given by him, who was intrusted with the honor and dignity of his Majesty's flag, to our question, than a repetition of what he before required, and which he then again required of us in the King's name, that Major Horne should be ordered to give Lord Pigot safe conduct to the Salisbury, his Lordship having repeated his claim of protection from his Majesty's flag. 6th September.

194. In reply to this Letter, we begged leave to observe to Sir Edward Hughes, that Lord Pigot having, as appeared from facts already published, by his illegal and arbitrary conduct subverted the constitution of the Company, and caused confusion and division in the Settlement, the maintenance of the Company's orders, as well as the necessity of public affairs, in our opinion, justified the steps which had been taken to prevent the further progress of such proceedings. That the experience we had had of Lord Pigot's violent and impetuous disposition (of which we gave striking proofs in the affidavits of Lieutenant-Colonel Edington and Serjeant Shaw, read to Sir Edward at the Board, and of which he himself had so recent an instance in the Letter of complaint written to him by the Nabob the 3d June) obliged us to put such restraints upon his Lordship's person as the public peace seemed to require; and from the same motives we were induced, in answer to his Letter, to request he would inform us what security he could give, that the tranquillity of the Coast should not be endangered, by our consenting to the removal of Lord Pigot from under our own authority. That since he was pleased to decline giving to us any security whatsoever in consequence of that request, that we were under the necessity of acquainting him, that we could not, consistently with the important trust reposed in us, comply with the requisition he had again repeated, that Major Horne should be ordered to give Lord Pigot safe conduct to his ship. That as loyal subjects to his Majesty, and faithful servants to the Company, we should always shew the greatest veneration to the sacred name of his Majesty, and the utmost respect to the British flag, but that having no proof before

before us, that his Majesty empowered any of his officers to require the removal of any servant of the Company, in a similar situation with Lord Pigot, from under the authority of the Company's Government, we begged leave to add that as another reason why we would not comply with the requisition he had made.

9th September.

195. We received a final answer from Sir Edward Hughes, wherein he says, that he should have been disappointed to have been told we had any proofs before us, that his Majesty had empowered any of his officers to require the removal of any servant of the Company, in a similar situation with Lord Pigot, from under the authority of the Company's Government, as he believed the case to be unexampled. That as we thought we could not, consistently with the important trust reposed in us, comply with the requisition made by him in the name of his Majesty, a name by him deemed very high security, and which he had a power to use in national concerns of the utmost importance, and as he felt in his own mind that he had done his duty to his Majesty and to his country in making the requisition, he had only to add, that we had taken on ourselves any and all the ill consequences which might arise from the refusal.

196. Before we quit this subject, it may not be unnecessary to remark to your Honors, that having furnished Sir Edward Hughes, immediately after our resuming the executive powers of Government, with a copy of the proclamation, and extracts of our Consultations explaining the motives of our conduct, he addressed us a Letter in answer to one which accompanied those papers, wherein he says, " That being ordered by his Majesty to communicate confidentially with the Government of this Presidency for the good of the common cause, and for the welfare and interest of the Company, he should join in all measures tending to those desirable ends, whenever we might find proper to call upon him for assistance."

197. Having now given your Honors a complete and faithful narrative of our proceedings, we shall beg leave to make some few remarks thereon.

198. The facts here laid before you speak so strongly for themselves, and we have so much confidence in the justice and candor with which they will be examined, that we feel no pain about the event.

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199. The conduct we have pursued, from the time these unhappy divisions first appeared, has been directed solely to your interest and advantage. Whilst forbearance and moderation were capable of stemming the violence which opposed us, we observed them to a degree bordering upon a mistaken lenity. We knew our own powers as a Majority of your Council were efficient. We might have crushed the first attempts that were made upon our constitutional rights, and perhaps it would have been better if we had done so; but wishing above all things to avoid extremities, we proceeded upon the plan of moderation we had adopted in the beginning, the only effect of which was to hasten those violent and illegal proceedings that soon after followed.

200. Your Honors will perceive, on reference to our Minutes, that Lord Pigot began early to maintain very extraordinary opinions concerning his authority as President of the Council; he declared that no Resolution of the Majority could pass into an act without his concurrence; that he would refuse to put questions regularly moved by any Member of the Board; that he would adjourn the Council when he pleased, though contrary to the opinion of the Majority; that he was at liberty to refuse signing any Letter agreed upon by a Majority, if he himself disapproved of it; that all business of the Board must originate with him, and nothing could be deemed an Act of Government without his concurrence.

201. We may safely venture to affirm, that none of these positions can be supported on any ground whatsoever. They are expressly contrary to the Commission of Government, to the standing orders of the Company, and to the universal practice of all your Presidencies. They tend separately and collectively to take away all authority from the Council, and to place it in the hands of the President only. No man *can prudently* be trusted with such unlimited power in the management of your affairs; want of capacity, integrity, or judgment, might involve them in ruin before any remedy could be applied.

202. But fortunately for the Company, the system of Government which they have established is founded on wiser principles, and laid down too clearly to be mistaken. The Commission of Government vests the supreme direction of the Company's affairs under this Presidency, subject to the restrictions of the late Act of Parliament, in a President and Council, or the major part of them. The Governor's separate commission of Governor and Commander in Chief of the Fort commands him to obey all orders he may receive from the Board. The standing orders of the Company are in these words: "Whatever shall be agreed on by the Majority

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“ shall be esteemed the order by which each one is to act, and accordingly
 “ every individual person, even the dissenters themselves, are to perform
 “ their parts in prosecution thereof ; and in so doing they do their duty,
 “ and must not be blamed for the event.” And the late Act of Parliament
 for establishing certain regulations for the better management of the affairs
 of the East-India Company, as well in Europe as in India, expressly says,
 “ And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in all cases wherein
 “ any difference of opinion shall arise upon any Question proposed in Con-
 “ sultation, the said Governor-General and Council shall be bound and
 “ concluded by the opinion and decision of the major part of those
 “ present.”

203. Your Honors may well suppose we were exceedingly alarmed at the doctrines insisted on by Lord Pigot in opposition to these orders, with which he was perfectly acquainted. We knew the violence of his temper, and were apprehensive of the effect. Our conduct on this trying occasion was moderate, yet we hope sufficiently firm. We resolved at all events to assert the constitutional rights of the Government. Lord Pigot on his part was obstinately fixed to his purpose, and finding that all other efforts to overcome our resolutions were vain, he proceeded, in direct violation of your orders, and of every principle of justice, to that most extraordinary act, by which he attempted to force Messieurs Stratton and Brooke from the Council.

204. The scheme was preconcerted, and the paper which he brought forth, and read as a charge against those gentlemen, was prepared before the order to the Secretary was signed by any Member of the Board. We beg your particular attention to this part of the Proceedings. The act on which Lord Pigot founded what he terms a charge, was the act of a Majority of the Board, intended to give effect to a resolution formally passed ; every Member of the Majority therefore was equally concerned with Messieurs Stratton and Brooke, and Lord Pigot might with equal justice have read the same charge against them all.

205. Your Honors will be pleased to observe, that the order to the Secretary to sign the instructions to Colonel Stuart was written in consequence of Lord Pigot's refusing to put his name to them, and declaring that they could have no effect without his signature, although they were approved by the Majority. This expedient was proposed out of tenderness to Lord Pigot, who by such refusal had afforded grounds for a real charge against himself ; yet standing in this predicament, he could without

the least remorse construe an act of delicacy and tenderness towards himself into a crime, upon which, by the same inhumanity, he proposed to ruin those gentlemen whom he charged with; and notwithstanding he deprived them of their voices, could vote himself, although the accuser.

206. Without considering the unparalleled violence of this whole proceeding, by which Lord Pigot attempted to free himself from the restraint of those who opposed him, we appeal to your Honors whether a man, who could shew so great a depravity of mind, was fit to be trusted in that high office, wherein his power to do injury was equal to his inclination.

207. We confess that the conduct of Lord Pigot was so alarming to us, that we could not think of acting any longer in conjunction with him. When he had proceeded so far as to declare Messieurs Stratton and Brooke suspended from the service, to publish that pretended suspension to the military in general orders, by his own authority, as the Act of the President and Council, and to leave the names of those two gentlemen out of the summons for assembling the Council the next day, we then plainly saw he was determined, at every risk and by every violence, to secure a Majority; and as we had protested against the illegality of the proceeding relative to Messieurs Stratton and Brooke, we could not with any propriety attend a summons in which their names were left out. And indeed we have great reason to believe, if we had gone to Council with Messieurs Stratton and Brooke, and claimed the seats of those two gentlemen, that an order was to have been given by Lord Pigot to seize them by a military force, a measure which would have effectually answered his Lordship's purposes.

208. We cannot doubt but the arguments used in the course of this Address will be sufficiently strong to convince you, that the measures we have taken were indispensably necessary in this dangerous and critical situation of your Government. Could we have thought that any expedient less firm and decisive would have had the same effect, we should certainly have adopted it; but we trust, upon a due consideration of all the circumstances, that the remedy will not appear too violent for the disease. A man who so far forgets his duty to his Employers as to proceed in open defiance of their orders and authority, violates that commission under which he acts, and wilfully throws himself out of their protection; but if, under the sanction of that authority, he assumes to himself unwarrantable powers, and employs those powers in breaking through every principle of the constitution, in attempts to destroy the public rights, and ruin the fortunes of men who are acting in the defence of it; when such a man, knowing himself
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armed with an unlawful authority, deliberately orders the Commander in Chief, one of those persons in arrest, not for any military act, but for supporting the constitution in his civil capacity as a Member of Government, and exhibits a pretended charge against him, probably to affect his life; we say, in such circumstances as these, when the State was in the most imminent danger, what other alternative was left us?

209. The conduct of Lord Pigot towards the Nabob has been so hostile and oppressive, that we cannot help requesting your particular attention to it. You have always considered it as a point of the utmost consequence to your welfare and prosperity in India, and indeed it really is, to cultivate the friendship of this prince. His early connexion with the Company, and the services he has rendered them, claimed your distinguished regard and protection, and he has hitherto had the good fortune to experience them to the utmost extent of his wishes; but the treatment he has received from Lord Pigot personally has been so disgraceful, so unworthy his dignity as a prince, and his faithful attachment as a friend and ally of the English Nation, that it calls for the strongest marks of your resentment.

210. When this part of Lord Pigot's conduct comes under your consideration, we beg your reference to the Letter and Resolutions of the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, which are strong and pointed on the subject; they wait on you numbers in the packet. If any further proof were required to shew the fatal consequences to be apprehended from Lord Pigot's violence to the Nabob, we, who were witnesses to the whole course of his proceedings, can take upon ourselves to declare solemnly, that we think the Nabob would have been driven to the last extremity of despair, had Lord Pigot succeeded in his rash and violate attempts; nay to such a distracted state of mind was his Highness at length reduced, that he has been repeatedly heard to say, in the presence of his friends, that the personal ill-treatment of Lord Pigot would be the cause of his death, for that he neither could nor would survive the indignity and public disgrace that his Lordship was daily loading him with; and this too at a time when the material business of Tanjore was concluded, and his Lordship had nothing in commission from the Board to transact with his Highness. Proofs of this we can produce, as well as of a declaration made by the Nabob, before several respectable characters, "That being determined not to live, his friends must bear witness that Lord Pigot was the cause of his death."

211. The situation of the Nabob, since the arrival of your orders respecting Tanjore, has been full of uneasiness. Those orders were conceived by him to be most degrading to his dignity and honour; he sensibly felt them as such; yet his feelings never betrayed him into any act, nor even into any expression, the least inconsistent with his friendship and regard for the Company.—It was upon this account we were the more desirous of carrying your orders into execution with the greatest delicacy and attention; but Lord Pigot, to whom this important business was intrusted, giving way to the violence of his temper, and inflamed by every little opposition he met with, committed the most flagrant acts of insult and injustice upon the Nabob's managers and servants; yet so strong has been the Nabob's attachment to the Company, so sensible hath he been of their past favour and protection, that even these repeated provocations only drew from him representations, complaining, indeed, in very strong terms of the conduct of Lord Pigot, but expressing the utmost confidence in the friendship and justice of the Company. And, upon this occasion, it may be necessary to add, that the Nabob sent positive orders to all his managers and officers, to take care, at their peril, that none of his Seapoys should fire a musket, or otherwise oppose any orders his Lordship might think proper to give; and the same injunctions were given to all his principal people.

212. In the present unhappy situation of public affairs at home, it is possible we may be involved in a war with France, and that this Coast might early feel the effects of it; it appears therefore of the greatest importance to you to strengthen and improve that connexion with the Nabob, which has been so much endangered, by the rash and imprudent conduct of Lord Pigot, and to which our constant attention shall be paid.

213. And here we think it necessary to remark, that although the Nabob and this Government have sometimes differed on matters of real importance, yet we believe, from the conduct he has observed at a time when he looked upon himself as injured in the greatest degree by your orders relative to Tanjore, that his disposition towards the English Nation and the Company is such as may be depended upon, as his present situation differs greatly from what it was last year. It were to be wished, indeed, that the Nabob would consent to the maintenance of a general force for the defence of the Carnatic, but we fear the present time is not favourable for it. His infantry, it is true, by being dispersed lose their discipline; but his cavalry, if occasion should require, might be found of real service in the field; and we have every reason to believe, that if his assistance were required, he would most readily grant it to us. No reduc-

tion however of his troops can at this time be made, as the increasing power of Hyder Ally Cawn, and the possibility of a war with France, make it necessary, for the security of the Carnatic, that the present establishment of his forces should be kept up.

214. Your Honours will no doubt attend to Lord Pigot's arguments against the admission of a previous question moved by Sir Robert Fletcher; but we appeal to you, if we had any other mode of knowing whether the Board would or would not allow us a day to consider, before we were forced to vote upon a question for the appointment of a Chief and Council at Tanjore, a measure which was altogether new and extraordinary, and appeared to be in direct contradiction (as the Governor-General and Council of Bengal have since declared) both to the spirit and letter of your orders. But here it is worthy of remark, that notwithstanding the late President's refusal to put the previous question moved by Sir Robert Fletcher, and his arguments *against all* previous questions, he was the person himself *who moved* the previous question, to which no one objected, upon one of Mr. Mackay's motions in these words, "That Mr. Mackay's question be now put"; and you will likewise observe, a very extraordinary amendment by Lord Pigot upon one of Mr. Mackay's motions, which but ill agrees with his Lordship's arguments in his letter to your Honours, when he attempts to shew the difference between this Board and Public Assemblies.

215. But indeed the whole of Lord Pigot's conduct from the beginning has indicated a determined resolution in his Lordship to act in such manner as he should think proper, without adverting to the constitution or even the established rules and usage of the service; a remarkable instance of which occurred in his falsifying the public records of the Company. The day on which our letter to the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, that accompanied copies of our proceedings relative to Tanjore was read, we, the majority of the Board, directed the addition of two paragraphs to the letter; but Lord Pigot *requesting* they might not be added, we entered a minute, which was twice read, to this effect: "That the President requesting the paragraph should not be added, the majority, out of compliment to him, resolved not to insert them in the letter, but to enter them on the proceedings of that day, for the information of the Government-General at Bengal." These words were however erased the next day by his own hand, without our knowledge, and the following inserted: "The President objecting thereto, they stand only in this place.

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216. This alteration of the records, which he never communicated to us, is a strong mark of the illegal conduct of Lord Pigot, and the consequences which might ensue are too obvious to require enlarging upon; yet, when we reflect upon his saying at the Board, he would *suppress or destroy*, when he should think proper, any letter addressed to the President and Council, without ever communicating their contents to the Board; and on his repeated declarations, when seated as President at the head of the Council, "That the late Act of Parliament, for the better management of the affairs of the East-India Company, was a *vile act*," and that "The instructions of the Company to the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, which are equally binding upon this Presidency, were *vile instructions*," we had every reason to apprehend his whole conduct would be governed by such principles; and the more particularly so, as he had violated both in many instances; one of which will, we hope, clearly evince to your Honours the truth of the assertion.

217. On the 28th of March we received a letter from the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, acquainting us, that the ministerial party of the Marattas at Poonah would not listen to the proposals made to them by Colonel Upton, who had been deputed thither by the Government-General, and in short that they were determined to hear of peace on no conditions, that should not be exclusively honourable and advantageous to themselves. That the ministers having resolved to send their army again into the field, they (the Governor-General and Council) had no alternative left, but a vigorous prosecution of the war against them in conjunction with Ragonaut Row, for the support of whom they had taken every preparatory step that had occurred to them for providing means to carry on the war with vigour and success. That they recommended to us to succour the Presidency of Bombay with two battalions of Seapoys, or more if we could spare them; and particularly that we should open a correspondence with Nizam Ally Khan, Hyder Ally Khan, and Morarirow, and concur with them in using our joint efforts with those powers for the re-establishment of Ragobah.

218. In consequence of this information from the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, of their intentions to prosecute the war against the ministerial party of the Maratta State, we ordered two battalions of Seapoys, then stationed at Madura and Palamcotah, to hold themselves in readiness to march to Anjengo. And as forces from the three Presidencies might act in conjunction in the expected war with
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the Marattas, General Fletcher, on the supposition that General Clavering could not be spared from the avocations of Government at Bengal, begged leave to offer his services for conducting it. This we accordingly communicated to the Governor-General and Council, and at the same time informed them, that we were happy, in case of extremity, to have it in our power to afford such able assistance in the general cause.

219. The most material part however of the directions of the Government-General, that of opening a correspondence with the country powers before-mentioned for the re-establishment of Ragobah, was entrusted to Lord Pigot, as President of the Council.

220. Not doubting in the least but that his Lordship would carefully attend to a matter of so important a nature, as that of a general war with the Marattas, which, if unsuccessful, might possibly involve your affairs in India in utter ruin, we could not admit ourselves to doubt but that his Lordship had taken the necessary measures on the occasion.

221. In this however we were mistaken; for Lord Pigot, notwithstanding the then critical situation of affairs and his promise to write on his way to Tanjore, never addressed either of the abovementioned powers, or took any other step whatsoever to bring them to the favourable disposition towards Ragobah, so earnestly wished for by the Governor-General and Council. Fortunately an accommodation some time afterwards took place, which rendered any further exertions unnecessary; so that the evil consequences, which might otherwise be apprehended from the very great inattention of Lord Pigot, were not felt, as they most probably would, had hostilities been again commenced, as had been at first resolved upon.

222. It is unnecessary to remark to your Honours the criminality of such a conduct on the part of Lord Pigot, or to point out to you where it directly violated the late Act of Parliament, and the instructions of the Company to the Governor-General and Council of Bengal.

223. In the second article of your instructions to the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, your Honours are pleased to direct, "That the Correspondence with the Princes or Country Powers in India be carried on by the Governor-General only; but that all letters

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" to be sent by him be first approved in Council, and that he lay before the Council at their next meeting all letters received by him in the course of such correspondence for their information." These instructions, as we have before observed, we look upon as binding on all your Presidencies in India equally with Bengal, as far as local circumstances will admit.

224. How far Lord Pigot has acted conformably either to the letter or spirit of these instructions, we shall submit to the consideration of your Honours. We mean here only to remark, that his Lordship has frequently kept from us a knowledge of circumstances relative to the Country Powers, that were materially connected with your interests and the prosperity of the Carnatic. One of which, in particular, was, the total overthrow of Morarirow by Hyder Ally Khan, and of the disgraceful punishment inflicted on Morarirow by Hyder when he took him prisoner. This his Lordship did not communicate to us, although he knew that Morarirow was included in the treaty of Hydrabad, concluded in 1768 with Nizam Ally Khan, and that the increase of Hyder's power, in consequence of his success, might endanger the peace and tranquillity of these parts unless timely prevented.

225. We will not trespass longer on your Honours patience on this subject; we cannot however avoid requesting your particular attention to a letter written by the Nabob to Lord Pigot, wherein he complains in very strong terms of his Lordship's conduct. This letter was not produced by Lord Pigot 'till we had received a copy of it enclosed to us by Sir Edward Hughes, as mentioned in the first part of this address; wherefore we may naturally conclude, that this, as it contained a *heavy charge* against himself, was one of those letters he deemed it necessary to *suppress*; and that we should have remained ignorant of its contents is very evident, had it not been conveyed to us through the channel of Sir Edward Hughes.

226. On the 22d of June Lord Pigot laid a draught of a letter before us, which he proposed we should address to your Honours by a conveyance which offered by the way of France. On our not approving of this letter, (which could be neither satisfactory to your Honours, or an explanation of the state of your affairs, and which aimed only at giving a partial impression of the divisions amongst us) Lord Pigot thought proper to address it to you from himself. We accordingly wrote you a short letter of the same date, and forwarded it by the same conveyance. Copies of both wait on you Numbers in the Packet.

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227. In the 3d paragraph of Lord Pigot's separate letter you will please to observe, that he declares expressly, "That the *whole* of his conduct, during the time he had been at Tanjore, had been since *disapproved* by a majority of the Council." As your Honours will not find on the records any vote of our disapprobation so marked and decisive as you would suppose to have passed on Lord Pigot's conduct at Tanjore from his own declaration, you will of course be surpris'd, that he should so readily admit a majority's total disapprobation of so important a duty. Lord Pigot must have known, that a majority of the members of Administration constitutes the Government, and that the Government is your Representative;—and further, that a condemnation of his conduct from your Representative was the condemnation of the Company, until they should be pleas'd finally to confirm or repeal it. In such circumstances, the readiness with which Lord Pigot in a manner anticipated our total disapprobation of his conduct at Tanjore, must have proceeded from one or two causes; either he judg'd of the result of our deliberation on his conduct after the various lights and explanations which daily arose from the Nabob's complaints and the claims of others, or, by representing to your Honours our *total* disapprobation of his conduct at Tanjore, (a chief part of which was the restoration of the Rajah) he wish'd to make us appear to you as set in opposition to that measure. But the injustice of such an intention, if it really dictat'd the declaration, is best disprov'd by the circumstances of the case. If Lord Pigot favour'd the measure more zealously than we did, we certainly would not have left him the sole and unrestrained power to put it in execution.

228. In the course of the letter in question, Lord Pigot endeavour'd to connect what he was pleas'd to call the divisions among us—a difference of opinion on the subject of a letter from Mr. Paul Benfield of the 29th May, upon which different opinions were form'd in consequence of a clearer consideration of the subject. But previous to the consideration of that letter, and before Lord Pigot's return from Tanjore, an event happen'd, which might have involved your affairs in the Carnatic; we mean the seizure of the Dobbeer, in the Nabob's country, by a military force acting under the authority of Lord Pigot, who has since justified the act in the strongest terms in one of his public letters to the Nabob, as remark'd by the Governor-General and Council of Bengal. On Lord Pigot's communication of this transaction to us on his return, some of the members of the Board saw not the measure in the fulness of it's critical extent; but your Honours will observe from the Nabob's letter how intimately that measure was connected with the distractions which have since prevail'd between Lord Pigot and the Nabob.

Nabob. Your Honours will likewise please to observe, that Lord Pigot might, by a more regular management at Tanjore, have saved your Government the very disagreeable difficulties in which we have been involved by the measure which gave rise to Mr. Benfield's application of the 29th May.

229. Having already begged your Honours would be referred to the letter and resolutions of the Governor-General and Council at Bengal on Lord Pigot's conduct, it may not be unnecessary here to desire your particular attention to the 2d paragraph of that letter, wherein they take notice of a draught of a letter presented to the Nabob by Lord Pigot, and required to be written by him to his Lordship, containing an approval of his Lordship's conduct, and an assurance of forgiveness for what had passed; and which they say afforded them a strong presumption, that the offers the Rajah of Tanjore so liberally had made, in opposition to his own interest, might have been drawn from him by the same indirect kind of influence. This we could not be assured of at the time we received their letter; but we have since his Lordship's arrest come at the knowledge of a letter to his Dubash, which proves to a certainty that the conjectures of the Government-General were not ill founded. This letter, together with copies of some others from the same person, will, without any comment on our part, shew you the very disagreeable situation the Rajah of Tanjore has been reduced to, as well as the Nabob, by his Lordship's conduct.

230. Another draught of a letter was laid before us by Lord Pigot a few days preceding his arrest, to be transmitted to your Honours by the Grenville; but this we likewise disapproved, as his Lordship had proceeded upon the same plan of partially representing matters that he had in his separate address before-mentioned.

231. We mean not here to enter into a discussion of that letter, or a refutation of many of the circumstances contained in it; but as Lord Pigot has been pleased to advance an implied accusation against your Commander in Chief, it is a justice we owe Sir Robert Fletcher on this occasion to declare to you, that his prudence, and the zeal which he has testified from the beginning for the execution of your orders, must sufficiently exculpate him from the conduct of which the late President would impeach him upon mere and uncertain report. The very terms in which his Lordship supposes *one of the Nabob's family* to inform against Sir Robert, are totally dissimilar to the terms in which

which a native of this country would convey information. We mean not by this remark to offer an affront to his Lordship's veracity, we only wish to shew you, that the speech which his Lordship quotes from the mouth of one of the Nabob's family, is not like the stile and manner of a native of this country, so that we think it must have been composed by some European for an imposition on his Lordship; a circumstance that appears the more credible, from what his Lordship was pleased to think on first receiving the information; for he says expressly, "*That well knowing the artful and intriguing disposition from whence this information was received, your President looked upon it as a bait thrown out to amuse him to prevent his setting out for Tanjore.*" Though it is very certain the packet for the Commissioners was opened by Lord Pigot, yet it contained nothing more than duplicates of the same dispatches which were opened by Mr. Dupré in his government. The paragraphs were quoted on your records in Mr. Wynch's government by Mr. Stone in support of the Nabob, who knew long before the last disputes that the Company had been pleased to write so strongly in favour of his rights.

232. It is worthy of remark, that notwithstanding Lord Pigot declares this information was given him at the time of his departure to Tanjore the latter end of March last, he never thought proper to mention a word of this to Sir Robert Fletcher, or to the Board, until the time when your Commander in Chief was unable to attend Council by a dangerous illness, from which it was apprehended he could not recover. We thought it at the same time a duty due to his honour to communicate to him, even in the extremity of sickness, a copy of his Lordship's accusation; he received it in his bed, and justified himself from the charge, adding, "That if he should recover of his illness he should be ready to disprove it to the world, and to convince every one, that any influence he had with the Nabob was employed in shewing his Highness the necessity of complying with the orders sent out by the Grenville."

233. Sir Robert Fletcher has entered a minute on the subject in consultation, to which we beg leave to refer your Honours.

234. Mr. Mackay likewise begs leave to observe, that the remark introduced by Lord Pigot in that letter, of Mr. Mackay's insignificance as a member of the Council, he looks upon as the greatest compliment his Lordship could pay him, being convinced that if he was so insignificant his Lordship would have thought it quite unnecessary

to have mentioned his name with any degree of rancour on the records. Mr. Mackay always has, and always will declare himself an enemy to tyranny and oppression; and to the opposition he gave in Council to Lord Pigot and his associates he is certain he is indebted for the above remark.

235. We cannot here help observing to your Honours, that Mr. Dalrymple's violence, and arbitrary doctrines asserted at the Board, are among the principal causes of the continued scenes of altercation and confusion in which we have long been involved; and we are very sorry to observe, that it has long appeared clear to us, that Lord Pigot has been greatly governed by that gentleman in his publick conduct. Your Honours will perceive, upon the face of our proceedings, that the conduct of Mr. Dalrymple has been, in many instances, complained of by some of the members of the Board; and Sir Robert Fletcher particularly was driven to the necessity of declaring, that he would move to have his conduct taken into consideration; but the indisposition of Sir Robert, which followed soon after, was the cause of the enquiry not taking place.

236. As we have wished, in the course of this address, to lay before your Honours the whole of our publick conduct towards Lord Pigot, as well as the most secret motives that influenced us, we cannot here help observing, (although the matter has been in some degree already discussed) that considering the mixt authority vested in him, who, as military Governor within the fort and town of Madras, was, in our opinion, subject to martial law for offences committed as Governor and Commander in Chief within the fort; and also considering Lord Pigot as the President of the Council, whose offences are to be judged of by acts of Parliament, and by the instructions and regulations of the East-India Company, or by the known laws of England; upon all these accounts, we say, it became impossible for us to bring any one specific charge of offence against his Lordship, as in common cases is, and ought ever to be known to a person in his situation as soon after his confinement as possible. We have given very minutely all the circumstances that preceded the extraordinary exertion of power which we have been under the necessity of making in our own defence, and that of the constitution, and for the peace of this Settlement and of the Carnatic. Besides this State necessity, we think ourselves justified by the clear definition of government, according to the practice of every Presidency in

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India, according to the exprefs words in the body of the commiffion of government, where we obferve, that the power over the officers and foldiers, in the fortrefs and city, is faid to be in the Governor and Council, or in the majority of the faid Council, according to every rational idea of what your wifdom could fuggelt; where there may be any doubt as to the powers of the Prefident in himfelf, feparate from the Council, which we cannot bring ourfelves to believe to be fuch, as that in our fituation, fo diftant from immediate redrefs from you, our fuperiors, Lord Pigot, or any Prefident, charged with crimes and offences of the nature contained in the minutes of our consultations and letter, fhould have it in his power to remain unalterably fixt in the chair, for years perhaps, diftreffing and impeding Government; mafter of the correffpondence with the country powers, refufing to join his name with the majority, and afferting that no queffion could be put, nor refolution of the Board carried into execution, without his concurrence; irritating the Prince of the country, the ally of the Crown of Great Britain, and the friend of the Company; fomenting a fchifm in government, and party violence in the Settlement, which might in its confequences encourage the neighbouring powers to take the advantage of fuch a fituation; we cannot, we fay, bring ourfelves to imagine, that any fuch independent power can refide in the Prefident of your Council; on the contrary, that his name, and every authority veffed in him (whatever may be his opinion given by vote in Council) muft, according to the conffitution and ufage of the fervice, be annexed to every act of government, that has the fanction of a majority of your Council. And we cannot help here obferving, that in the body of his military commiffion, as Governor of this fort, and indeed by the exprefs terms of your inftructions, defining the feparate military powers of the Governor and the Commander in Chief, Lord Pigot, as Governor of the fort, in every act of authority, was fubject to the orders of the Governor and Council, which undoubtedly means the majority of the Council. Were it neceffary to bring arguments from analogy, we need only refer you to the act of Parliament already mentioned, and to the mode of conducting bufinefs in the deliberations of the Government-General at Bengal; where it is well known, that almoft ever fince its eftablifhment, the government has been exercifed by the majority, and the Prefident or Governor-General has feen it his duty to fubmit and fign the refolutions he even diffented to.

237. In refpect to detaining Lord Pigot fo long in arreft, we muft again urge to you, not to judge of us upon any feparate point, but to confider the whole of our conduct, and the particular circumftances, publick

lick and private, applicable to Lord Pigot, arising from the authority he might dare to assume as the supposed Governor, and from the means which his large fortune might enable him to use, in order to gain the purposes suggested by a natural violence and heat of temper, if he were at liberty, as a servant of the Company, merely suspended; weighing likewise in our own minds the state of distress and anxiety that this would occasion to the Nabob and to his family, we determined in all events to detain him under arrest, as an enemy to the State and to the Constitution of the Company, for reasons of State, and in order to preserve the peace of the Carnatic, which it is our duty in the first place to look to. We have at the same time taken particular care that his arrest shall be attended with as few inconveniences as the public trust in us will admit of. This appears from the daily reports from the Mount. Lord Pigot has permission to walk abroad when he is so inclined, and to dine with his son-in-law Mr. Monckton, at Mr. Monckton's house, whenever he thinks proper; besides, his most intimate friend, Mr. Dalrymple, has been permitted to assist him in his dispatches to England, and every paper, which he has as yet desired from the records for his own justification, has been granted him; and every one in the Settlement who chuses has daily access to him.

238. And thus having discussed, with as much candour as sincerity, the subject of our late divisions, we shall now draw this long address to a conclusion, relying on the justice of our cause with the utmost security as to the judgment you may pass, both as to our conduct and that of Lord Pigot's respectively. It is however necessary to beg your attention to the letters we shall address you from the Civil and Revenue Departments, wherein your Honours will find much matter on the same subject; and such, if it is essential, you should take into your most serious consideration.

239. Since writing the foregoing, we have received a letter from Mr. Paul Benfield, from Tanjore, to the following effect: That having never given cause to Lord Pigot to draw his resentment on him, he was at a loss to find out the reason why his Lordship should be induced to take measures against him so injurious to his credit and fortune, as he had already represented to the Board. That he had however since perceived, that his Lordship's views in so doing were interested, and that it was his own good, not that of the Company, he pursued in those measures during his late administration. That as a servant to the Company, and wishing to bring to light the true motives of

Lord Pigot's publick conduct, as well as in justice to himself, he took occasion to inform us, that he had arrived at the knowledge of certain transactions of Lord Pigot, such as his obtaining very large sums of money, jewels and plate to a very great amount, from Indian Princes, contrary to covenants and the repeated orders of the Company, and which constituted him guilty of an infringement of the late act of Parliament.—That as he was resolved to take every legal method, by prosecution or otherwise here and in England, to prove beyond a doubt such delinquency and breach of public trust in his Lordship; and as he should have occasion to apply to us to obtain certain evidences residing within the bounds of Tanjore, or in places belonging to his Highness the Nabob of the Carnatic, that he trusted he should meet with our assistance and support.—That he thought it his duty not only to make those representations to us, but that they might be known to Lord Pigot himself, against whom he meant to commence prosecutions before courts competent in such cases.

240. In answer to this letter from Mr. Benfield we informed him, that we did not understand what he meant by the words *obtaining evidence*.—That the only way we could act, was to recommend to the Princes in alliance with the Company to permit such of their subjects to come to this place, as might be necessary to give evidence in any suits he might think proper to prefer against Lord Pigot, without our interfering in any other respect either by our authority or influence.—That we should transmit a copy of his letter, with our answer, to Major Horne, in order that he might communicate the same to Lord Pigot.

241. On this subject we shall for the present remain silent; and having, in every circumstance relative to Lord Pigot treated him with the utmost candour, we will not even venture at hazarding an opinion until the facts are more fully brought to view.

We are, Honourable,

Your faithful humble servants,

Fort St. George;
24th September, 1776.

Geo. Stratton
Henry Brooke
Robt. Fletcher
Charles Flöyer
Archdale Palmer
Geo. Mackay.

Number 15.

Number 15.

*List of a Packet received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper,
30th March, 1777.*

*List of the Packet from the President and Council of Fort St. George,
in their Military Department, to the Honourable the Court of Directors,
via Suez.*

Number.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. General letter, | dated 10th October, 1776. |
| 2. Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore | 25th Sept. 1776. |
| 3. Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore | 26th Sept. 1776. |
| 4. Letter from the Nabob | 3d October, 1776. |
| 5. Letter from the Nabob | 5th October, 1776. |
| 6. General letter from Bengal | 10th Sept. 1776. |
| 7. Letter from Sir Edward Hughes | 8th October, 1776. |
| 8. Letter from Lord Pigot to Sir Edward Hughes | 7th October, 1776. |
| 9. Letter to Sir Edward Hughes | 9th October, 1776. |
| 10. Letter from Sir Edward Hughes | 8th October, 1776. |
| 11. Minute of Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Jourdan. | |
| 12. Minute of the President, Messrs. Brooke, Palmer, and Mackay. | |
| 13. Minute of consultation | 29th August, 1776. |
| 14. Circular letter from the Governor-General and Council to the Subordinacies. | |
| 15. List of the Packet. | |

Dated in Fort St. George,
this 10th October, 1776.

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

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Number 1.

Number 1.

Fort St. George General Letter, dated 10th October, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies.

Honourable,

Par. 1. Since closing our general dispatches to your Honours of the 24th and 26th ultimo, we have received two letters from the Rajah of Tanjore, copies of which now wait on you enclosed.

2. On reference to our proceedings of consultation in the civil department 28th June, your Honours will be pleased to observe, that among the many reasons urged by Lord Pigot for the appointment of a Chief and Council at Tanjore, the particular desire of the Rajah is mentioned as a principal one, who, he informed us, was so "Sincerely desirous of strengthening his connexion with the Company by every means in his power, that it would be agreeable to him if the Company would send proper persons to attempt an investment in his country, where they might be sure of meeting with every support and assistance that could be received from his authority." How far this assertion of Lord Pigot accords with matter of fact your Honours will be able to judge from the papers now before you. The Rajah's dislike to the appointment of either a Chief and Council or Resident is evident from his letters, wherein you will be pleased to observe he expresses an anxious desire to have the free and uncontrolled government of his country in his own hands. We will not enter into a discussion of the reasons which might have induced Lord Pigot to recommend

mend the appointment of a Chiefship or Residency at Tanjore, or of the motives which afterwards led him to an obstinate perseverance in support of that measure; it will be sufficient to remark, that it clearly appears to us from the Rajah's letters to have been proposed without his concurrence.

3. The reasons we urged against this favourite project of Lord Pigot, as we could not view it otherwise than an interference with the Rajah's government, will, we are convinced, meet with the entire approbation of your Honours. They were in every respect conformable to your commands of the 12th April, 1775, per Grenville, and, as it has since appeared, to the sentiments of the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, who, on taking the subject into consideration, have thought proper expressly to declare, " That they should consider any authority given " to interfere in the affairs of that government as a breach of your " positive orders, and that an appointment, such as proposed by Lord " Pigot, was too liable to suggest to the neighbouring powers the " apprehension, that the act for restoring the Rajah of Tanjore to the " possession of his dominions, was only a pretence for vesting the sovereignty and government of that country in the Company under the " name of the Rajah.

4. We have likewise received a letter from the Nabob, informing us, that Lord Pigot, in a publick letter of the 25th June, advised him of the resolution of the Board, " That he was entitled to the Government-share of the last year's crop in the Tanjore country, but that his Lordship had privately sent him an English draught of a letter some days after that resolution had passed, (which we observe to your Honours was without the knowledge of the Board, and in opposition to a resolution of a great majority of the Board) written in his own hand, which he desired his Highness would address to him, containing a proposal to let his claim to the Government-share of the last year's crop in the Tanjore country remain as it was until your pleasure should be known. A copy of this is a number in the packet, and needs no other comment

than what will occur on reading the paragraph of the letter from the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, which relates to a similar one delivered by Lord Pigot to the Nabob, and of which a copy is also a number in the packet.

5. After having taken up perhaps too much of your time with respect to the nature of the claims on the Tanjore country whilst the Nabob was master of it, we shall only add, that when we gave our opinion on this business, we desired Lord Pigot would acquaint the Rajah, "That we recommended to him to see justice done, leaving the manner and time to himself;" but as we do not think it likely the Rajah will give the Nabob any satisfaction in this matter without your interference, we shall wait your orders on this subject.

6. Were there not already a sufficient number of instances stated to your Honours of the arbitrary and illegal conduct of Lord Pigot, these would be of themselves enough to shew you the very serious difficulties in which your affairs would thereby have been involved.

7. Since writing the foregoing, we have received a letter from the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, dated the 10th of last month, together with paragraph of your commands to them by the Lioness, both of which confirm, in the amplest manner, the propriety of the line we have been compelled to take as a majority of the Council. A copy of their letter waits on your Honours enclosed.

8. A letter has been addressed to Lord Pigot by the Governor-General and Council at Bengal to the same effect as that we have received, and likewise one to Commodore Sir Edward Hughes, requesting his aid and assistance, if necessary, in uniting with them in the support of our authority and government.

9. Sir Robert Fletcher a few days ago made application to us for leave to proceed to the Cape of Good Hope in the Greenwich for the recovery

recovery of his health, which has for some time past been in a very declining state. Although we were much concerned at the cause of this request, which was likely to produce the temporary absence of Sir Robert Fletcher, from whose zeal and abilities the Company have reaped great service, yet the necessity appeared so urgent from the Surgeon's Certificate, that we could not hesitate a moment in giving him our permission. As soon as Lord Pigot was informed of this step, he addressed a letter to Sir Edward Hughes, acquainting him, that Sir Robert Fletcher had been ordered in arrest the 23d of August by himself and the Members of Council, and that as he had not been legally released, his Lordship desired him to inform us, that he should hold us responsible for all the consequences that might ensue from our permitting him to remove out of the jurisdiction of the military authority established by act of Parliament. Apprehensive however that this representation would not be sufficient to delay Sir Robert's departure for the Cape, his Lordship at the same time filed a bill of complaint against him in the Mayor's Court for false imprisonment, laid his damages at 200,000 l. and prayed the Court to issue a writ of *Ne exeat Regnum*.

10. Although we were before well acquainted with Lord Pigot's disposition, we did not conceive him so void of humanity as he has shewn himself in this instance. The means which his Lordship has taken to prevent Sir Robert Fletcher from going to the Cape are not confined to the sole cause of obtaining justice; they appear evidently to be founded on personal pique and resentment, and to gratify these he is at no pains to conceal the spirit by which he is actuated. His Lordship, at the head of a minority of the Members of Government, having violently usurped the powers of the whole Board, had the cruelty to order Sir Robert Fletcher in arrest on the 23d August, under all the usual formalities, for a supposed capital crime, while he was lying upon his bed in the most dangerous state of health; still persevering in the same temper towards Sir Robert, he is not content with filing a suit against him for excessive damages, but he makes

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this illegal arrest a pretence for keeping him in the Settlement at a time when he is told by his physicians, that a voyage to the Cape is necessary for his recovery.

11. Sir Robert Fletcher is now better than when he applied to us for leave to go to the Cape, and if he continues to mend, he intends to stay with us, and not to go thither.

12. We shall add no further comment upon Lord Pigot's conduct than to observe, that we daily, even hourly, see reasons sufficient to convince us of the propriety of having taken from him that usurped power, which he had the will to employ in sacrificing every thing to his personal resentment. We beg leave to enclose copies of Sir Edward Hughes's letter on this occasion to us, and our answer; also copy of the letter from Lord Pigot to Sir Edward Hughes. Your Honours will no doubt remark the peculiar impropriety of Lord Pigot's writing, and of Sir Edward Hughes's forwarding to us, a letter disavowing our authority, after they had both received information from the Governor-General and Council approving the measures we had taken, and expressing their firm resolution to support the authority of our Government.

13. Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Jourdan having delivered in a joint minute, proposing that more members be added to the Council, it was resolved by a majority in the negative. We enclose copy of their minute, and of the minute delivered in by the President, and subscribed to by the other members of the majority; also copy of the minute passed the 29th August, relative to the vacancies in the Committee of Circuit and those of the Council.

14. The Governor-General and Council at Bengal have thought it necessary to write a letter upon *the act of arresting* Lord Pigot to all
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our northern Settlements, a copy of which we think it material to transmit to your Honours a number in the packet.

We are,

Honourable,

Fort St. George,
October the 10th, 1776.

Your faithful humble servants,

Geo. Stratton
Henry Brooke
Rob. Fletcher
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

Number 2.

Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, dated 25th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Translation of a Maratta Letter from Tuljaujee Maharajah to the Honourable George Stratton, Esquire, President and Governor, &c. Council at Fort St. George, dated the 25th September, 1776.

ON the 16th of this month I received your favour dated the 7th instant, and I was greatly-rejoiced at it; wherein you wrote me, that some time ago, in a letter that was written by Lord Pigot, was mentioned the determination of the Governor and Council that was made on account of Mr. Benfield's affairs, that I must act according to justice, and that if I perused the letter in which the opinion of the Governor and Council was given, I should know that I am obliged to make the payments.

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On the subject of Mr. Benfield's affairs Lord Pigot did not write me any letter I never knew any thing concerning it ; besides, I do not understand the determination of the Board ; therefore if you will be pleased to send me copies of Lord Pigot's letter, and the determination of the Board, I will examine into the affairs and transact it according to justice : whatever is agreeable to you will be perfectly so to me. You are sensible of all things.

What can I say more ?

A true Copy.

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

Number 3.

Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, dated 26th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Translation of a Maratta Letter from Tuljaujee, Maharah of Tanjore, to the the Honourable George Stratton, Esquire, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George, dated 26th September, 1776.

I WRITE particularly in answer to your letter dated 7th September, wherein you mentioned, that " I would on all occasions open my mind to you, and without the least reserve express what I wish, as it is your earnest desire, as well as that of the Council, to make me and my people happy and contented ; and that if I have any grievance, to inform you ;" when I have such friends as you and the Council to support me and my credit, to whom should I otherwise apply ?

You wrote me, that you and the Council were unwilling to appoint a Chief and Council or Resident here ; what occasion was there for such an appointment, and what business had they to do here ? Some time ago I had the misfortune to disagree with the Nabob, and by that my Government affairs, with respect to the repair of the Anneicut, &c. were hindered by some of my enemies. As I am under
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the protection of the Honourable Company, it is necessary that they should protect me from the perplexities of my enemies. I had applied to Lord Pigot in order to assist me in my Government affairs, upon that I do not know what has passed; now my desire is, that your Honour, &c. should be careful that there should not be any disturbance in my Government, and that I may have full power to govern the country freely, without having any troubles of my enemies; the heaviness of transacting according to my request is upon you and the Council, you know it perfectly well.

You mentioned in your letter, that it had been represented to you that my mind was disturbed with fears and alarms; there was no cause for any such thing; besides, how can I be under fears at any time, when the Honourable Company (who had saved me from all fears) are in power to assist me and my generations? Besides, what reason have I to be concerned, when I am certain that there will not happen any disturbance? for what they have done must remain as long as the sun and moon endure, and that I am easy by their shewing me favour and friendship. How much do I commend them for their humanity and favour, in restoring me to my country, and establishing me in it. You will be pleased to inform the Honourable Company of my firm attachment to them, so that my Government may be settled for ever, and you will acquaint me of their goodness that I may be happy.

You wrote me concerning the Vackeels and Dubash; I did not take them into my service by the recommendation of any person, but myself took them into the business; but having reason to form suspicions of them, I have dismissed Rudraja Pundut, Vackeel, and Oppoo, Dubash. Concerning the Vackeel's duty, my Vackeel, the son of Shambaujee Pundut, is waiting upon you, therefore I have no business to take any Dubash in that duty.

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E e e

You

You will be pleased to write letters to me in Marattas, as is usual, which will be easy for me.

You mentioned in your letter that nobody had any authority from you to interfere in my business, and for the same account you gave strict orders to your Dubash; and also you assure me of your good intentions, and that it is your determined resolution to support me in my government to the utmost of your power. You will be pleased to protect me, that I may carry on the government affairs easily without any one giving me trouble.

As you are wishing for my happiness and long life, I can have no concern whatever, and am quite easy, since I am to be supported by the Honourable Company; and as I have these assurances from you I am easy, without taking any consideration into my head. Be pleased to continue to protect me in all my affairs. You are sensible of all things.

What can I say more?

A true Copy.

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Number 4.

Letter from the Nabob, with Draughts of Letters given him by Lord Pigot.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Translation of a Letter from the Nabob to Governor Stratton, dated and received 3d October, 1776.

I HAVE received your letter of the 14th September. The satisfaction you express on the declaration I make, in being ready to unite in whatever may be for the benefit and advantage of the Carnatic, and the interests of the Company, is a mark of the sincerity of your friendship

friendship and makes me very happy. I shall always be obliged to the Company, and am and will be united with them whether in good or bad times; and shall always consider their advantages and interests as one and the same with my own. You write, "That I may be assured it will always be your greatest pleasure to pay attention to my honour and dignity, and you hope that in future I shall have no occasion to complain of the conduct of the Company's servants." I am much obliged to you for this declaration; as my friendship with the Company and English Nation has subsisted thro' a length of years, both in bad and good times, in full force, has even from the beginning been the same, has been found true on the touchstone of trial, and will in future, with the blessing of God, continue the same in me and my children, I entertain hopes on this ground of receiving from the Company's agents such attentions as your Letter expresses; but further I have always, from the commencement of my friendship with the Company and the English Nation, flattered myself with hopes of increase of honours and the preservation of my own rights. I had no personal dislike to Lord Pigot, my dislike was to his conduct, in which it appeared he was bent to lessen my honour, to disgrace me, and to destroy my rights, for which I look for justice to my good friends. I send you, agreeably to your desire, copies of my letters of the 16th July and 17th August, which Lord Pigot did not give to the Council.

Sir, among other particulars of Lord Pigot's conduct, one was, that from the beginning he did not approve of my writing to the Governor and Council, and told me not to write without shewing him the draughts of my letters; and if I wrote, and he approved of my letters, he shewed them to the Council, but if he disapproved of them, he did not deliver them in to the Board; perhaps then he may not have delivered in many of my letters that were disagreeable to himself. His Lordship was exceedingly displeased with my letter of the 12th of February last, setting forth to the Company the real state of matters here
with

with respect to the affairs of Tanjore, and told me not to write in such terms ; but to write a short letter, declaring, " That in compliance with " Lord Pigot's representation I had consented, and that I should attend to what he might say ;" but I represented all the circumstances of that affair to the Company. For these reasons, being aware of Lord Pigot's disposition, I was under apprehensions, and therefore wrote the circumstance of setting a guard of Europeans over me in my letter to Commodore Sir Edward Hughes, that through his means it might be communicated to the Council. Lord Pigot, in a publick letter of the 25th of June, wrote of his intentions of giving me the grain of the Tanjore country, but privately sent an English draught of a letter written in his own hand, that I might write one conformably to it ; and, after coming from Tanjore, delivered me the draught of a letter in his own hand-writing to be addressed to himself. I have sent you the copies of them, and they will clearly shew you his Lordship's disposition. I have received the copy you sent me of the resolves of the Governor-General and Council of Bengal ; they are a clear proof of the justice, virtue, and wisdom of those Gentlemen ; their wise and judicious conduct has been the means of making me very happy, and is deserving of the highest applause. I am much obliged to you for your goodness in sending me a copy of their resolutions.

What can I say more ?

A true Copy.

Copies of Draughts of Letters given by Lord Pigot to the Nabob, and alluded to in his Highness's Letter, 3d October, 1776.

I AM very happy at my friend's return. I forgive you for every thing you have done. The man who is faithful to his master will ever be so to his friend. You have finished the Company's business, I hope you will not forget mine. I will lay before you the whole state of my affairs,
and

and I desire your assistance to settle them to the satisfaction of the Company, that I may be happy.

A true Copy.

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

I have received your letter of the 23d July. Being happy upon every occasion to convince you that I sincerely wish to be guided by the judgment of the Company, I will let my claim to the Government-share of the last year's crop of the Tanjore country remain as it is until their pleasure be known.

I will never give up my pretensions, and what I think my right to the Tanjore country in general; but the same inclination which leads me to testify my desire of conforming to the Company's pleasure, prompts me to tell you, that you may dispose of Hanamantagoody and Arnee in the manner you may think most conformably to the wishes of the Company, relying upon their justice.

With respect to the Tripaffore, &c. districts, I wish to rent them upon the Company's terms. The rent I pay is large, but I will in a few days let you know what I think is their real value.

What can I say more?

A true Copy.

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

Number 5.

Letter from the Nabob, dated 5th October, 1776, with a Paper given by Lord Pigot to his Highness; and Copy of a Letter from him to Lord Pigot.

Received over-land by Lieutenant Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

THE President acquaints the Board, that the Nabob has delivered to him a paper containing the amount of the orders he has given upon the

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Tanjore

Tanjore country. That the Nabob has likewise given him an order directed to all his Amildars, &c. commanding them to account with such persons as he, the President, may name, for all the sums collected in the Tanjore country since the 9th instant; and directing the said Amildars, &c. to relinquish all manner of authority, should they be required by him so to do.

The President thinks therefore the Company's orders may now be carried into effect, and that the Rajah should be placed in the full possession and management of the country by a public order to all the Amildars, &c.

The safety of Tanjore, and the security of the Rajah and his family, appearing to make it necessary that an English garrison should not only be in the fort, but the country also be protected by the Company's troops; the President recommends, that the Rajah be requested to permit the same, and to allot for this purpose a sum not exceeding the amount of what he formerly paid to his own troops.

The safety of the Carnatic depends upon a well-disciplined force, regularly paid, being kept up; the particular safety and quiet of every individual seems to require that no other force should be permitted to be kept up; and these considerations induce the Board to wish that the Rajah would join them in their endeavours to place the country in this situation.

In order to induce the Nabob to assent hereto, the Rajah may be desired to allow the amount of the several orders the Nabob has given upon the Tanjore country to be discharged out of the revenues thereof.

The provision thus made towards the support of the army by the Rajah of Tanjore, will render it unnecessary for the Nabob in time of peace

peace to be at a greater expense than the sum the Company now charge him with ; and such of his regiments of horse as have been long in his service, and he is desirous of having continued in pay, may be kept up without putting him to that expense.

The President adds, that having explained this to the Nabob, his Highness in testimony of his sincere friendship to the Company readily assents thereto.

A true Copy.

Translation of a Letter from his Highness the Nabob to Governor Stratton.

IN answer to your favour of the 4th September, in which you requested copies of the two letters I wrote to the Governor and Council, and which Lord Pigot had kept himself, I wrote to you a letter the 3d October, 1776, from which you will know the cause of Lord Pigot's kindness to me, in not laying my letter which he did not approve of before the Board. I now write for your information.

On the 26th February, 1776, in the morning, Lord Pigot delivered a paper, written by himself, in English, to Mr. Chambers, the Company's Moonshy and Persian Translator. Omdat ul Omrah and Ameer ul Omrah, my two sons, whom I desired to go and visit Lord Pigot at the Company's gardens, sent it to me with this message ; " That " his Lordship would lay that paper before the Board that day, and " whatever that paper contained, whether I consented to it or not, " he would do it by force." This very much astonished me, and I immediately told Mr. Chambers and my two sons, that I had never said any such things to Lord Pigot ; and how could he write in this manner in my name ? Afterwards Mr. Chambers took a copy of Lord Pigot's paper, and carried it to his Lordship.

As

As Lord Pigot had taken the liberty of writing such things without my knowledge, I did not know what falsities he might tell of me in Council; for this reason, in answer to that paper, I wrote a publick letter to the Governor and Council, dated 27th February, 1776. As I suspect that Lord Pigot has never laid before the Board either his own paper or my letter, I have sent you enclosed copies of both in English; I have also sent a copy of my own letter in Persian, to explain this to you. From this business you will understand all his actions.

Dated, 21st Shaubaun, 1190 Hegira.
5th October, 1776.

A true Copy.

Translation of a Letter from his Highness the Nabob to Lord Pigot, dated 7th Mohurrun, 1190 Hegira, or 27th February, 1776.

IN answer to your Lordship's request of the 23d February, 1776, or 3d Mohurrun, 1190 Hegira, to be informed what orders I had given on the Tanjore Country, and what person I wished to be sent on a deputation thither, I sent you by my two sons a paper, containing my opinion, on the 26th February; upon this your Lordship sent me by Mr. Chambers a paper written in your own hand for my perusal. The contents of that paper surprized me much. From the time in which a garrison of my friends has been put in Tanjore, I have repeatedly explained to your Lordship, as in my letter of the 22d January, my sentiments relative to my rights, and the difficulties that would arise from interfering with the business of the country.

I now write your Lordship, that I did not explain to you my sentiments in the manner you have been pleased to write in the paper sent by Mr. Chambers. I beg your Lordship may write me what you propose to say on this subject; I will in return write your Lordship my sentiments plainly. I always regard my good friends,

friends the Company as the protectors of my honour, my reputation, and my family.

A true Copy.

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

Number 6.

General Letter from Bengal, dated 10th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

The Honourable George Stratton, Esquire, President, &c. and Council at Fort St. George.

Gentlemen,

Par. 1. WE have received your letter of the 23d August, by the Shrewsbury, and we have also received a letter from the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, dated 29th August, by the Triton.

2. Having maturely considered the subject of these letters, we proceed immediately to acquaint you with our determination upon them.

3. The rights and powers of the Governor and Council at Fort St. George, being, by the original constitution, vested in the majority of the members who compose that body, and the intemperate conduct of Lord Pigot, your late President, in forcibly excluding two of your members from their seats at the Board, having been the cause of the unhappy separation of the majority of your Board from the minority; in this alarming and dangerous situation of your Government, we think it incumbent on us to declare, that we acknowledge the title and authority which we understand you have been thus compelled to assume; in consequence whereof we have resolved to support you in the Government, by all the means which you may require from us, and we have it in our power to grant, in virtue of our general instructions, to afford our aid and protection to all the Presidencies of the Company in India.

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4. Although you have not yet notified to us that you have assumed the administration of the Presidency of Fort St. George, nor informed us of all the circumstances which produced that event, yet we are too well apprised of the series of transactions, which led to it, to entertain a doubt with respect to the conduct we ought to pursue on this occasion; and the crisis is too urgent and alarming to admit of our waiting to enter into a more minute investigation of all the facts and proceedings which have reduced the Government of Fort St. George to its present situation, and us to the necessity of deciding upon it; it is sufficient for us to know, that in supporting that part of a divided administration, which is formed by a majority of its members, we support the legal and constitutional Government.

5. We judge it proper however to mention, that we should have been very glad to offer our mediation to conciliate past differences, instead of pursuing the more decisive line which we have adopted, had we conceived any hopes of success; but we feared, that your differences had gone too far to admit of it, and that a want of success in promoting that desirable end might have been attended with consequences more fatal than any which can result from our present decided resolution.

6. After so recent an example of the disposition of your late President, as appears in his conduct towards the Nabob, and while our decision on the appeal, which was made to us by the Nabob on that occasion, was yet depending, we could not but be greatly alarmed for the peace of the Carnatic, when we heard of the unexampled means by which Lord Pigot had endeavoured to usurp the powers of your Government, by attempting to procure a majority of the Council by violence in order to sanctify his measures.—Thus deprived of the aid on which we had depended from the integrity of a large majority of the members of your late Council, who had steadfastly opposed the hostile measures adopted by his Lordship against the Nabob, what hope could we any longer entertain that our orders on these points, which were contained in our
letter

letter of the 7th August, would not be openly disobeyed or covertly eluded, when the execution of them was thus left to the discretion of that power which they were meant to control? Notwithstanding what has followed, we are not yet free from our apprehensions; we therefore judge it necessary to give you this notice, that our final resolution on the charges preferred against your late President only remains suspended, and that if any change shall have taken place, since the date of your last advices, which shall make it necessary for us to recur to the opinions which we have already delivered upon them, we shall not fail to proceed to the last extremities warranted by the controlling powers vested in us by the late regulating act of Parliament for the preservation of the national faith, and of the Company's engagements with their ally the Nabob of the Carnatic.

7. Sensibly concerned as we are for the disorders which have unhappily taken place in the Government of Fort St. George, we must still continue to feel the most painful apprehensions of the consequences which may ensue from such a convulsion. We earnestly desire therefore that you will furnish us with constant advice of every subsequent transaction, which may have any relation to this unfortunate affair, and in which the general interests of the Company may be eventually concerned, to enable us at all times to be prepared to contribute our aid by any means that may be necessary to conduce to the safety of your Settlement.

8. To remove every possibility of a doubt that the whole power of your Board rests in a majority of its members, we transmit you an extract of a General Letter which we have lately received from the Honourable Court of Directors by the Lionses, wherein you will find their sentiments very clearly expressed.

9. We have thought it proper to acquaint Sir Edward Hughes with the resolutions we have formed, under the present circumstances, with
respect

respect to your Presidency, and to request that he will unite with us in support of your authority and government.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servants,

(Signed)
Fort William,
10th September, 1776.

Warren Hastings,
John Clavering,

Rich^d. Barwell,
P. Francis.

A true Copy, R. J. Sullivan, Secretary.

Number 7.

Letter from Sir Edward Hughes, dated 8th October, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To George Stratton, Esquire, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Sir and Gentlemen,

HAVING received a letter from Lord Pigot, I think it necessary to send you the enclosed copy of the same, that you may act therein as to you may appear most proper.

I am, Sir and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Salisbury, in Madras Road,
8th October, 1776.

EDWD HUGHES.

A true Copy. R. J. Sullivan, Secretary.

Number

Number 8.

Lord Pigot's Letter to Sir Edward Hughes, dated 7th October, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

*To Sir Edward Hughes, Commodore and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's
Ships in India.*

S I R,

AS I understand that Sir Robert Fletcher hath applied to Messieurs George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan and George Mackay, for permission to proceed to the Cape of Good Hope on the ship Greenwich now under dispatch; and being apprehensive, in case such permission should be granted him, that he may thereby elude being brought to justice for the crimes for which he was ordered in arrest the 23d of August last by myself and the Members of Council, and from which arrest he has not been legally released; I desire you will acquaint the said George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan and George Mackay, that I shall deem them responsible for all the consequences that may ensue from their permitting him, Sir Robert Fletcher, to remove out of the jurisdiction of the military authority established by act of Parliament for the better government of the Company's troops in the East Indies, until the pleasure of the Court of Directors be known, as in the present situation of myself and other legal Representatives of the Company on this Coast, it is not in our power to bring him to his trial.

I have the honour to be,

With the greatest esteem,

Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

St. Thomas's Mount,

7th Sept. 1776.

(Signed)

PIGOT.

A true Copy.

- R. J. Sullivan, Secretary.

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Number

Number 9.

Letter to Sir Edward Hughes, dated 9th October, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

*To Sir Edward Hughes, Commodore and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's
Ships in India.*

S I R,

WE have had the honour to receive your letter of the 8th instant, and cannot but express our concern that after having perused the letter from the Governor-General and Council, of which we sent you a copy, expressing their approbation of the late measures, and enclosing copy of orders from the Company by the Lionses, and after the letter, you inform us, you also have received, you should transmit to us a copy of the one from Lord Pigot disavowing our authority. We hope, Sir, you will be pleased to take this subject into your consideration, and we doubt not but you will see the impropriety of our receiving such letters through you.

We have the honour to be with esteem,

Sir, your most obedient

And most humble servants,

(Signed)

Fort St. George,
9th October, 1776.

Geo. Stratton
Henry Brooke
Rob^t Fletcher
Arch^l. Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

A true Copy. R. J. Sullivan, Secretary.

Number 10.

Letter from Sir Edward Hughes, dated 8th October, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Salisbury, in Madras Road, the 8th Day of September, 1776.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I HAVE received your letter of yesterday's date with the enclosures, and in answer thereto acquaint you, that the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, in their letter to me, express themselves in the following words :

———" Requesting that you will unite with us in affording your
" assistance and support to the actual Government of Madras, if any
" change of circumstances should render it necessary for them to de-
" fire it."——

And that it is my intention to act as they have requested, of which I mean immediately to forward information to them, as I now do to you. I am,

Sir and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) EDWARD HUGHES.

A true Copy.

R. J. Sullivan, Secretary.

George Stratton, Esquire, President and Governor, &c. Council——Fort St. George.

Number

Minute of Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Jourdan, dated 9th October, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

WHEN the Court of Directors were pleased to give orders by the Grenville, forbidding us to fill up vacancies in the Council here until it were reduced to twelve, it consisted of nineteen members. From these they appointed a Committee of five to make a circuit of the northern Circars and the Jagueer; besides these five, and after allowing four others for the subordinate settlements, there remained ten for the Presidency. When the Committee should return from the Circars there would be fifteen for this Board, and after fulfilling the above order, by reducing the number to twelve, there would remain eight, which seems clearly to be the lowest number to which the Company intend the general management of their affairs under this Presidency should be intrusted.

In the usual course of the service this order, as all others, ought certainly to be strictly attended to. Servants as we are, and accountable for our conduct, nothing can excuse us in deviating from their commands but some extraordinary emergency, some pressing occasion, which in their instructions may not be provided for. Such emergency and occasion we are of opinion has now arisen; by the late alteration that has happened in the Council; it was impossible that our Honourable Masters should either foresee or provide against it; and such being the case, it appears to us not only eligible, but requisite, that we should in the mean time fill up the vacancies in Council to what appears to have been their intention. By this we do not propose that they should be put to any additional expense, or that it should be considered in any other light than an expedient adopted in necessity until we can be favoured with their instructions.

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The Council now here will consist of only five members, all of whom had a share in the late diffensions and change of government. The impropriety of leaving in so few hands the whole management of the Company's affairs, political and commercial, but more especially under the above circumstances, is so evident, and at one view is so convincing, as to render argument unnecessary.

On a reconsideration of the orders of our Honourable Masters respecting the Committee of Circuit, we find the trust of such magnitude and importance, that we are persuaded it was intended by them that it should be composed of Members of the Council; for they are not only to examine into the value, &c. of all the lands, but also to let them out; and as the station of a Member of Council, under an oath of fidelity to the Company, implies a greater responsibility than is expected from an inferior servant, there seems sufficient ground for this opinion.

By filling up the vacancies we shall not only be able to accomplish the Company's intentions, but we shall add to our Councils men free of the late disputes, and unbiassed in their opinions; and we shall have the credit of voluntarily, and of our own accord, diffusing the power from the few hands in which it is at present confined into those of a greater number; but by refraining to do so we may incur the imputation of being with-held by interested and selfish motives; perhaps the imputation also of what we understand has been alledged by Lord Pigot and his adherents, "*That we are a party, who have long wished to get and retain the government to ourselves; and that the late change was greatly promoted by the Nabob, who, they add, still maintains an improper influence.*"

For all these reasons we wish the Board to take into their serious consideration the necessity of forthwith filling up the vacancies, that our Honourable Masters may be advised thereof by the Swallow.

A true Copy.

Chas. Oakeley, Secretary.

*Minute of Messieurs Stratton, Brooke, Palmer, and Mackay, dated 9th
October, 1776.*

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777:

Minute of the Majority..

THE President, Messieurs. Brooke, Palmer, and Mackay, cannot but express their concern to be under the necessity of differing in opinion with Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Jourdan, on the subject of their minute entered on this day's consultation, and to the motion made in consequence by Sir Robert Fletcher. Because they cannot admit that there are any vacancies in the Council, which now consists of Messieurs Stratton, Dawson, Sir Robert Fletcher, Messieurs Brooke, Whitehill, Smith, Johnson, Floyer, Stracey, Hay, Cotsford, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, being two more than the number to which it is limited by the positive orders of the Court of Directors, besides the gentlemen suspended, whose seats in Council cannot be looked upon as vacated 'till the Court of Directors have dismissed them from the service. Because, on the 29th last August, the Board were unanimously of opinion (as will appear by a minute then made, to which we refer) that they could not, without a manifest breach of the Company's orders received by the Grenville, add any new members to the Council; and, in our opinion, there were then stronger reasons for the necessity of increasing the Council than at present. Because the Council, now at the Presidency, are six in number, and if the Governor-General, with three members, (Colonel Monson being ill) can manage the extensive and important concerns committed to them by the State and by the Company, we cannot see why a President and five members here may not transact the Company's affairs of this Presidency. Because, if the misrepresentations of Lord Pigot are good reasons for increasing the Council, they would be equally

so if it consisted of double the number they are at present ; as it is not to be doubted but Lord Pigot, in his present situation, would endeavour to make people believe they were influenced by the Nabob ; and we have reason to think, that these reports are spread about with a view, not only to create divisions among us, but to induce us to break the Company's positive orders, a deviation from which, we are determined never to consent to, except in cases of absolute necessity, which we do not think exists at present. And here we cannot help expressing our surprise, that any weight should be given to what Lord Pigot or his adherents may say, when the late measures have been so fully and unanimously approved of by the Governor-General and Council, who cannot be supposed to be biassed by any other motive than the public good, whose eagerness to express their sentiments anticipated even the official advices from the present Government, and led them to forward the same to the subordinates in the northern Circars. Because we may have reason to expect that in eight or nine months at farthest some of the Council (now at home) will return, or that we shall receive particular orders from our Honourable Masters on this and other subjects. For all which reasons we hope to stand justified in not consenting to the proposition now before the Board.

A true Copy.

Minute of Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Jourdan.

WE cannot but take notice, in reply to the minute of the majority, that the Governor-General and Council is on a very different footing from this Presidency. Important as the concerns intrusted to them are, they are limited to the government of the country, the commerce being intrusted to a separate Council; whilst this Board has the management of the whole, and in addition the members of this Government have many employs to attend to.

A true Copy.

Minute

Minute in answer to the above.

THE majority are of opinion, that the Governor-General and Council, considering their superintending and controlling power over the Presidencies of Madras, Bombay, and Bencoolen, have full as much business to transact as the members of this Government.

A true Copy.

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Number 13.

Minutes of Consultation, 29th August, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

THE Board taking into consideration the nomination of proper persons for the Committee of Circuit, refer to the Company's orders on this subject, which are as follows:

Separate
letter from
England,
12th April,
1775.

“ We therefore direct, that when affairs respecting Tanjore shall
“ have been accommodated and finally adjusted, a Committee of our
“ Council, consisting of five members, be appointed to make the
“ circuit of the Northern Circars, &c.”

When the Court of Directors gave these orders the Council consisted of nineteen, so that there were more than sufficient for carrying on the Company's business at the Presidency, for the Chiefships and for the Committee of Circuit; the case is now altered, for by the late change the Council is reduced to nine members on the Coast; two are gone home with leave, viz. Messieurs Dawson and Whitehill, and two others, Messieurs Cotsford and Hay, are now in England, and have the leave of the Court of Directors for remaining there another year. The Honourable the Court of Directors, in their commands of the 12th of April, 1775, positively direct, that no new member shall be taken into Council 'till the numbers are reduced to twelve.

“ Although from a variety of circumstances, it has happened that
 “ our Council at Fort St. George, have never been reduced to the
 “ number of twelve, according to our directions in the year 1769,
 “ nevertheless it is our positive order, that no future vacancy therein be
 “ filled up by you, even provisionally, until the Council shall be
 “ reduced to the said number twelve, &c.”

Letter from
 England,
 12 April,
 1775, para.
 64.

In this situation we are under the necessity of deviating from the orders of our Honourable Masters, with respect to the Committee of Circuit, or in filling up the Council beyond the number prescribed, which we think ought not to be done but in cases of necessity; after the most mature deliberation on the subject, we are unanimously of opinion, that three vacancies now in the Committee of Circuit, by the suspension of Messieurs Russel, Dalrymple, and Lathom, be filled up by Messieurs Perring, Daniel, and Craufurd, those gentlemen being near Council, and we are of opinion very capable of serving the Company on this important business. The Committee will then consist of

Messrs. Johnson,
 Daniel, Floyer,
 Craufurd, Perring.

Mr. Sadleir, the next servant on the list to Mr. Perring, cannot, we think, be employed until the Board come to a determination on his conduct at Ingeram. Mr. Davidson has the charge of an employ of great trust, which cannot, at this time, be transferred to another. Mr. Morgan Williams, the next servant on the list to Mr. Davidson, having been many years at Vizagapatam, and well acquainted with the business of that settlement, we think his remaining there will be absolutely necessary, as both the Chief and Second are ordered on the Committee of Circuit.

Mr. John Hollond is next to Mr. Williams, but he is Persian translator.

Mr. Williams to succeed Mr. Perring as Second.

†

K k k

Ordered,

Ordered, That Messieurs Perring, Daniel, and Craufurd, be wrote to, advising them of their appointments to the Committee of Circuit; that Messieurs Craufurd and Daniel be directed to proceed to Vizagapatam, where they will be joined by Messieurs Johnson and Perring.

A true Copy.

CHARLES OAKLEY, Secretary.

Number 14.

Circular Letter from the Governor-General and Council to the Subordinacies of the Presidency of Fort St. George, dated Fort William, the 16th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Charles Floyer, Esq; Chief, &c. Council at Masulipatam.

GENTLEMEN,

WE were extremely alarmed at the information we received of the dangerous divisions which had taken place in the Council at Fort St. George, of a consequent separation of a majority of the members from Lord Pigot, and the party which supported his violent measures, and of the ultimate seizure and confinement of his Lordship.

Having maturely considered the proceedings of George Stratton, Esq; and the other members of the Council at Fort St. George, composing a majority of that government, we are of opinion, that the steps which they have been reduced to take, in assuming the government, and depriving Lord Pigot, their former Governor, of any powers or share in the administration of that Presidency, were justified by the necessity of the case, and we are determined to acknowledge and support their authority, as the only legal and constitutional government of Fort St. George. We think it necessary to communicate to you our sentiments and resolutions on this subject; and in order to remove any doubt which

you may have of the part which you ought to take, or of the authority which it is your duty to obey on the present occasion, we transmit you an extract of a general letter received from the Honourable the Court of Directors by the Lioneſs and Shrewſbury.

We are,

Fort William,

Gentlemen,

16th Sept. 1776.

Your moſt obedient ſervants,

WARREN HASTINGS

J. CLAVERING

RICH^d BARWELL

P. FRANCIS.

A true Copy.

R. J. Sullivan, Secretary.

Colonel Stuart's Report of the manner in which he executed the Orders given him in the Minute of Consultation of the 23d Auguſt, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

AS ſoon as I had an opportunity of being well informed of the general ground upon which the late majority (who now compoſe the government) had ſeparated themſelves from Lord Pigot and the gentlemen who adhered to him, ſome particulars of which were ſignified to the publick, and to me, by the letter of Auguſt 23d, directed to me by the Notary Public, Mr. Bromley, I did not hesitate to conclude it my duty to obey their orders; and in this view, I had no difficulty in determining what part I was to act at the time when I received from Mr. Stratton the order contained in their minute of conſultation of Auguſt 23d. In conſequence of the power veſted in me by that minute, I forthwith formed the plan of putting this fortrefs into the poſſeſſion of what I conſidered to be the legal government, with as little danger and confuſion

as possible. The principal officers of the garrison and neighbourhood, who, as I suppose, had received the same information, from the protest circulated by the Notary Public, Mr. Bromley, gave a ready concurrence on their part to assist me. It became an object of great importance towards the publick peace of the settlement, to secure the person of Lord Pigot. My own knowledge of the man, and what I heard from others of his violent hasty temper, made his arrest necessary in my opinion, and I had taken measures to arrest him, even in the fort, had it been necessary, but I shall ever think it a fortunate circumstance that I was not driven to this necessity. After the Fort-Adjutant had delivered to me, by order of Lord Pigot, the general orders of the 23d August, appointing me to the command of the army, I went in the evening to the Fort Square, at Lord Pigot's desire, to meet him; we had some conversation apart, the substance of which was, that he considered my having received the general orders, without objection, as an acknowledgment of the authority by which they were published; on my part, without contradicting that position, I told his Lordship, that I owed to the Court of Directors the obligation of being next in command to Sir Robert Fletcher, and I pressed his Lordship to allow me communication of the records. He gave no precise answer, but asked me to supper, as he said, with his friend, which I promised to do, provided he gave me his word, that nothing of business should be talked of. Messieurs Stone, Dalrymple, Lathom, and the Sub-Secretary, Mr. Baine, were of the party. Next morning, the 24th August, I thought proper to write Lord Pigot a letter, again requesting communication of the records, before I was called upon for any executive act as Commander in Chief. This letter I delivered after breakfasting with him at his Garden-house; he read it with seeming attention, did not deny the reasonableness of the request, but objected to the manner, as it looked like making a bargain before I consented to do my duty. He asked me to dinner, I waited at home from nine o'clock 'till one, in expectation of being called to Council. I then went to the house called the Admiralty, and again urged my request, to be informed from the records, of the grounds

grounds that had given rise to the honour conferred upon me in general orders; I had no answer that gave me any satisfaction. After dinner was over, Lord Pigot asked me to sup; I enquired particularly whether he supped in town or at the Garden-House; he told me, in the country, but that he would see me at six in the Fort Square. About five in the afternoon I received a note from the Sub-Secretary, Mr. Baine, desiring my attendance on Council at six o'clock. By this time I had entirely completed my plan, and had entrusted the execution of it to Lieutenant-Colonel Edingtoun, the Adjutant-General, to Captain Lyfaught, then in the garrison, and to Major Horne, commanding the corps of artillery at the Mount. The first gentleman I ordered to post himself at a certain place on the road, with a few Seapoys, to stop the carriage in which he would see Lord Pigot and me, to disperse the attendants, and to arrest Lord Pigot in the name of Government.

I ordered Captain Lyfaught to be near at hand with a chaise, and an orderly serjeant, to convey Lord Pigot to Major Horne's, at St. Thomas's Mount, and give him my orders and instructions for the Major. I posted another officer near Lord Pigot's guard, at the Garden-House, to prevent their getting under arms in case of an alarm. Having made this disposition, I went to Council, where Lord Pigot arrived half an hour after six. There were present Messieurs Ruffell, Dalrymple, Stone, Lathom, Mr. Secretary Sullivan, and Mr. Baine; but they did not seem to be regularly met, or sitting as a Board. Lord Pigot retired with one or two gentlemen for some minutes, and then brought in his hand a parchment, which he called the commission of government, in order to convince me that there was no power in the Council to dismiss or suspend the Governor. There was much conversation upon this and other subjects, which I confess I industriously spun out to gain time 'till it was dark. The utmost efforts of Lord Pigot, and the gentlemen, were used to obtain an avowed acknowledgement of their authority by some public act on my part; particularly, they desired that I might, as Commander in Chief, direct the Adjutant-General to publish in ge-

neral orders to the army the resolution of Council, whereby Sir Robert Fletcher was put in arrest, and I was appointed to the command. I repeated, at full length, the hardship of obliging me to take this or any other step without giving me communication of the reason of their proceedings, adding, that I considered it as a right peculiar to the officer commanding the forces, who, from his station, is entitled to a seat in Council. Mr. Dalrymple and others, in answer said, it was my duty to obey. I fought off the best way I could, and a great deal of vague conversation followed, the particulars of which very possibly Mr. Secretary Sullivan may recollect. It was now about half an hour after eight, and Lord Pigot had agreed to drive me to the Garden House in his chaise. The Adjutant-General stopped the chaise according to orders, and I told Lord Pigot that he must go with Captain Lyfaught, who accordingly delivered him over to Major Horne. I then sent the Adjutant-General to the house where the seven members of Council were assembled, to acquaint them that every thing was ready for their reception in the Fort Square. I returned myself to the Fort, where I found every one in the best disposition to acknowledge their authority.

I do not take any minute notice here of Mr. Russell's conduct, in attempting to give orders to the main-guard in my presence, and in the presence of almost all the officers in the garrison. I was under the necessity of forcing him from the parade, in order to bring him before Council, where I wished he should remain 'till he heard what I had to say upon the occasion, the particulars of which appear upon the minutes of consultation of the 24th at night.

The Board having information that underhand practices were made use of to draw the soldiery from their duty, which they had reason to believe were encouraged by the local residence of Lord Pigot, they empowered me to take such measures as I thought proper to remove his Lordship to Chingleput.

On

On the 26th I ordered Major Cook thither to receive his Lordship, and to provide the necessary things for his Lordship's convenience ; and on the 27th I also ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Edingtoun to proceed to St. Thomas's Mount, and concert measures with Major Horne, that, with the least noise and disturbance to the ladies of Lord Pigot's family, he might be conveyed in a chaise along with Lieutenant-Colonel Edingtoun to Chingleput. As to what passed on this occasion, I refer to Lieutenant Colonel Edingtoun and Serjeant Shaw's affidavits.

I cannot close this narrative without adding my satisfaction at having had an opportunity, in presence of the Council and of all the officers of the garrison assembled on the 24th at night, to declare my sentiments upon the nature of a free government under the auspices of the British Constitution, that it consisted in the due subordination of the military to the civil power. This declaration I made in the name of all the officers of the garrison then present, to which they unanimously assented. Were it necessary to bring additional proofs of my real sentiments at this crisis, I might refer to my conversation in presence of a large company next day assembled at dinner at the Governor's in the Fort Square, and the public toast I gave on that occasion, unanimously approved by the civil and military servants then present ; it was, " Justice to the army, " while subordinate to the civil power."

Though a soldier upwards of 29 years standing, I have never one moment lost sight of the blessings of civil liberty, and I shall ever esteem it the most honourable and most fortunate circumstance in my life, to have been in any degree the instrument of recovering the legal authority of the Company's Representatives, and I am ready to risk my all to support and maintain the established constitution, according to my oath of fidelity as a servant of the Honourable Company.

JAMES STUART.

A true Copy,

R. J. Sullivan, Secretary.

Declaration

*Declaration of Mr. Bromley, Notary-Publick.**Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper 30th March, 1777.*

ON this day, being Wednesday the eleventh of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, I Charles Bromley, of Fort St. George, in the East-Indies, Notary-Publick, Do declare, that on Friday the 23d day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, did, as Notary-Publick, at the request of George Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay Esquires, of Council of Fort St. George, deliver a declaration in writing, under the hands of the said gentlemen, unto the Honourable George Lord Pigot, addressed to the said George Lord Pigot, Claud Russell, Alexander Dalrymple, and John Maxwell Stone of Council, Esquires, which said writing the said George Lord Pigot did receive. That some time after, on the same day, he, this declarant, did, at the directions of the said George Stratton Esq; &c. Gentlemen of Council aforementioned, leave sundry attested copies of such declaration with many of the inhabitants both civil and military of Fort St. George. That soon after such service, the said George Lord Pigot sent (being the afternoon of the same day) for this declarant, who went to his Lordship, when his Lordship, being in a room by himself, did, in a most violent manner, threaten this declarant with an immediate imprisonment for daring to serve these attested copies of the said George Stratton, &c. declaration, and insisted on this deponent giving up his, this deponent's, instructions, and that in case this declarant did not discover and disclose the particulars of his instructions, to prison this declarant must go, being a fower of sedition and mutiny. Upon this deponent's declaring, that what he had done was in consequence of his duty as Notary-Publick, and not contrary to law; to which his Lordship replied, then damn him, this declarant should go to prison, and not tell him about law; and that he would send for the Sheriff and put this declarant into his custody. This declarant acquainted

quainted his Lordship, that the Sheriff, as this declarant then stood, was of no consequence to this declarant ; his Lordship answered, that he would see into that, and speak to his Council that were then sitting, but directed this declarant to stay until his and their pleasure were known. Soon after this declarant was called in, and the Board seated, composed of his Lordship, Claud Russell, Alexander Dalrymple, John Maxwell Stone, and Richard Lathom Esquires, where this declarant was asked by his Lordship, how he presumed to write these circulatory declarations and notices in the garrison ; that what the declarant had done was in open defiance of his Government, which was then at that time a military one, as his Lordship pronounced ; and that according to the articles of war, which articles were produced by one of the gentlemen present, and expatiated upon by Mr. Alexander Dalrymple, that the declarant came under them as a fower of sedition, and a person who spread mutiny among the men, and therefore necessary, for the good of the whole, to send the declarant to prison, which the declarant was apprehensive of from their ignorance of the business. As no one argument was advanced by the Board, then sitting, in support of their assertions, this declarant was told by his Lordship, and assented to by the gentlemen present, they seconding his Lordship, that unless this declarant would give up the authority they supposed this declarant received from George Stratton Esq; &c. this declarant must be confined. This declarant informed his Lordship and the Board, that they were at liberty to dispose of his person as they thought proper, but his sentiments would be still the same respecting his duty, a part of which was to keep secret and not disclose the trust reposed in him by his employers ; this declarant further informing the Board, that the gentlemen, who had set their names to the declaration delivered in to his Lordship in the morning by this declarant, would, at any time, acknowledge in Court and out, whenever called upon, that their names thereto affixed were of their own respective hand-writing, and that he, this deponent, would also, at any time, and in any place, assert the same. This deponent being still kept at the Council-Board, hearing their arguments, and, amongst the rest,

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M m m.

Mr.

Mr. Alexander Dalrymple did observe, that this declarant would abscond, and therefore necessary he, this declarant, should be either confined or give some security ; all which the declarant protested against, as unbecoming his character both in his public and private station, and did advance, that his, the declarant's circumstances were too considerable to leave behind ; but, to obviate a difficulty, this deponent did pledge his word and honour not to leave the Fort or it's districts without leave of that Board.—This observation of Mr. Alexander Dalrymple, and the declarant's offer, occasioned some deliberations which ended in favour of this declarant, whom his Lordship said he would dismiss on this declarant's promise of being forth-coming, whenever his Lordship and that Board should call upon him.—Upon this deponent's engaging so to do, this deponent was dismissed.

CHAS. BROMLEY, Not. Publ.

A true Copy,

R. J. Sullivan, Secretary,

Letter from George Stratton, Esq. Council to Major Horne, dated Fort St. George, 15th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Major Horne, commanding at the Mount.

S I R,

THE President has laid before us your letter dated yesterday, acquainting him that you had again spoke to his Lordship of the inconveniency the Secretaries suffered from the want of the public papers, but that you did not find his Lordship in the least inclined to send any person, on his behalf, to select them from his private ones; that Mr. Dalrymple would have brought his papers away, but was not suffered, and that the room being sealed up was not his doing.

In answer to the above, we are to desire you will acquaint his Lordship, that on the 25th of last month, Messieurs Dalrymple and

Stone came to the Fort House, and in going into the room where his Lordship usually wrote, were told by the President in presence of Messieurs Brooke and Floyer, and afterwards of Colonel Stuart, that as they conceived Lord Pigot's private papers in that room were intermixed with those of a public nature; it was proposed to them, that whenever it should be convenient to those gentlemen, or to any other whom Lord Pigot might appoint, the Secretaries would attend them to select the public papers that were there; in the mean time, the President recommended to Messieurs Dalrymple and Stone, to put Lord Pigot's seal on the doors with that of the President, to prevent any person whatever from going there, until the papers and effects of his Lordship were removed; to which proposition Messieurs Dalrymple and Stone readily assenting, Mr. Dalrymple took Lord Pigot's seal out of his pocket, with which he sealed every door which had communication with that apartment; the President then affixed his seal also in the presence of the above named gentlemen, and they continue in that state to this day. The President then declared to these gentlemen, that he had made it a point not to go before into that or the adjoining room.

When you have represented the foregoing circumstances to Lord Pigot, we hope he will see with us the necessity of his desiring any gentleman to select his own papers, and that the public ones may be delivered over to us.

We understand from Mr. Majendie, Clerk to the Committee of Treasury, that Lord Pigot informed him that one of the keys of the Treasury was among his papers, which we are to request his Lordship will also direct to be delivered up to us.

We are, Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

Fort St. George,
15th September, 1776.

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

P. S.

P. S. We are also to desire you will acquaint Lord Pigot, that we this * evening resolved to dispatch the ship Grenville to England, on the 20th instant.

A true Copy.

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

Letter from George Stratton, Esq; Sec. Council, to Major Horne, dated Fort St. George, 17th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Major Horne, commanding at the Mount.

S I R,

WE are to desire that you will communicate to Lord Pigot, the accompanying copies of a letter to us from Mr. Paul Benfield, with our answer thereto; and should his Lordship be desirous of having copies of them, you will furnish him accordingly.

We are, Sir,

Fort St. George, Your most obedient servants,
the 17th September, 1776.

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

A true Copy,

R. J. Sullivan, Secretary.

Letter from George Stratton, Esq; Sec. Council, to Major Horne, dated Fort St. George 18th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Major Matthew Horne, commanding at the Mount.

S I R,

WE have received your letter of yesterday.

Since Lord Pigot has informed you, that he believes there are no other publick papers with his own, except the general letter from the Company by the Triton, of which we have a duplicate, and some fe-

* N. B. The Consultation of the 15th of September, is not contained in the book received from Colonel Capper.

cret

cret instructions from the Court of Directors respecting their home-ward-bound ships. We desire you will signify to his Lordship, he is at liberty to send any person to remove his private papers and effects whenever he shall think proper, and that we shall rely on his Lordship delivering up all those of a publick nature.

We are, Sir,

Fort St. George,
18th September, 1776.

Your most obedient servants,

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

P.S. We desire you will acquaint his Lordship, that the consultations at which he presided are ready for signing, and that, if it be agreeable to him, the Secretaries will accordingly attend him with the consultations for that purpose.

A true Copy.

R. J. Sullivan, Secretary.

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N n n

Return

Return of Ordnance and Stores at Tanjore for the Month of June, 1776.

Qualities.	Remains 31st May	Received	Issued	For what service, and by whose order.	Remains 30th June
Brass guns and carr. 6 pounders	4	—	—	—	4
Tumbrils — — —	4	—	—	—	4
Round shot fix'd, 6 pounders	424	—	—	—	424
Grape do. do. do.	76	—	—	—	76
Flannel cartridges, do.	79	—	—	—	79
Do. empty bags do.	99	—	—	—	99
Cloth do. do. do.	140	—	128	For his Majesty's birth-day, } &c. Colonel Harper }	12
Tubes filled do.	932	—	128	Do. do. do. do. do. do.	804
Port fires — — —	208	—	18	Do. do. do. do. do. do.	190
Match — — —	—	—	—	—	—
Europe — — — Sk.	12	—	—	—	12
Cotton — — — do.	15	—	—	—	15
Country — — — do.	18	50	9	For the use of the garri. do. do.	59
Tube boxes with straps	4	—	—	—	4
Port fire sticks — —	4	—	—	—	4
Claw hammers — — —	4	—	—	—	4
Pinchers — — — pairs	4	—	—	—	4
Priming wires and bitts, each	4	—	—	—	4
Round, ragged, and spring } spikes, each }	4	—	—	—	4
Relieves for do.	4	—	—	—	4
Aprons, lead — — —	4	—	—	—	4
Spunges — — — —	—	—	—	—	—
12 pounders — — —	2	—	—	—	2
6 do. — — —	14	—	—	—	14
3 do. — — —	2	—	—	—	2
Ladles — — — —	—	—	—	—	—
12 pounders — — —	2	—	—	—	2
6 — — — —	4	—	—	—	4
3 — — — —	2	—	—	—	2
Haversacks and buckets, each	8	—	—	—	8
Drag ropes — — — prs.	4	—	—	—	4
Tompions with collars	4	—	—	—	4
Padlocks with keys	12	—	—	—	12
Handspikes — — — —	—	—	—	—	—
Traversing — — — —	8	—	—	—	8
Purchasing — — — —	8	—	—	—	8
Tarpaulins — — — —	—	—	—	—	—
Large — — — —	2	—	—	—	2

Tarpaulins

Qualities.	Remains 31st May	Received	Issued	For what service, and by whose order.	Remains 30th June
Tarpaulins					
Gun — —	4				4
Tumbril — —	4				4
Grease — — — duprs.	$1\frac{3}{4}$		$\frac{1}{4}$	} For the use of the carriages, Storekeeper.	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Tar — — — do.	$1\frac{3}{4}$		$\frac{1}{4}$		$1\frac{1}{2}$
Spare yokes					
Single — —	4				4
Double — —	12				12
Country rope					
$4\frac{1}{2}$ inch — — coil	$\frac{1}{2}$				$\frac{1}{2}$
$3\frac{1}{2}$ do. — — do.	$3\frac{1}{2}$				$3\frac{1}{2}$
$2\frac{1}{2}$ do. — — do.	$1\frac{1}{4}$				$1\frac{1}{4}$
Twine					
Europe — — fkn.	5		1	For mending tarpaulin, Storek.	4
Bengal — — do.	4				4
Country — — lb.	4		1	For coating of spunges, do.	3
Small coir for lashing bundles	3				3
Sinnet — — — fath.	30		5	For coating of spunges	25
Spun-yarn — — — balls	$7\frac{1}{2}$				$7\frac{1}{2}$
Private tents — — —	2				2
Gun flags — — —	1				1
Hambro' line — — fks.	$3\frac{3}{4}$				$3\frac{3}{4}$
Marline — — — do.	12				12
A park line — — —	1				1
Do. pickets shod — —	12				12
Gun scrapers — — —	2				2
Gun searthers — — —	3				3
Do. fishes — — —	3				3
Artificers cart — — —	1				1
Steel, country — — —	1		1	} For repairing scrapers and searthers, Storekeeper	
Felling axes — — —	3				3
Hand do. — — —	3				3
Hand hammers — — —	3				3
Anvil — — —	1				1
Pick axes — — —	1				1
Bill hooks — — —	6				6
Mamolies — — —	15				15
Handfaws — — —	2				2
Country do. large — —	1				1

Qualities.	Remains 31st May	Received	Issued	For what service, and by whose orders.	Remains 30th June
Rasps — — —	2	—	—	—	2
Bench vice — — —	1	—	—	—	1
Hand vice — — —	1	—	—	—	1
Auwers — — —	4	—	—	—	4
Gimblets — — —	4	—	—	—	4
Sledge hammers — — —	1	—	—	—	1
Plains — — —	2	—	—	—	2
Bellows — — — pairs	4	—	—	—	4
Spare axle-trees — — —	2	—	—	—	2
Dammers — — — lb.	3	—	—	—	3
Chalk — — — lb.	—	6	—	—	6
Solder — — — lb.	4	—	—	—	4
Borax — — — lb.	1	—	—	—	1
Canvas — — — yards	34	—	4	For the repairing of tarpau- lins, Storekeeper }	30
Wax cloth — — — piece	1	—	—	—	1
White cloth — — — do.	5	—	3	For making cartridge bags, Colonel Harper }	2
Blue do. — — — do.	2	—	—	—	2
Gunny — — — do.	8	—	—	—	8
Do. bags — — — —	37	—	—	—	37
Europe hydes — — — —	$\frac{3}{4}$	—	—	—	$\frac{3}{4}$
Scissars — — — pairs	7	—	—	—	7
Laboratory knives — — —	6	—	—	—	6
Palms — — — —	7	—	—	—	7
Needles — — — —	—	—	—	—	—
Sail — — — —	12	—	—	—	12
Gunny — — — —	5	—	—	—	5
Small — — — —	53	—	—	—	53
Cotton thread — — — lb.	4	—	1	For making cartridges, Co- lonel Harper }	3
Bees wax — — — lb.	1	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. do.	$\frac{1}{2}$
Rattan bundles — — —	$\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	—	$\frac{1}{2}$
Lanthorn — — — —	2	—	1	For the use of the Command- ing Officer, Col. Harper }	1
Wax candles — — — md.	$\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	—	$\frac{1}{2}$
Cocoonut oil — — — feers.	1	—	1	For the use of elevating screws, &c. Storekeeper }	—
Linseed oil — — — gall.	$\frac{1}{2}$	—	$\frac{1}{4}$	For making of the guns, Colonel Harper }	$\frac{1}{4}$

Qualities.	Remains 31st May	Received	Issued	For what service, and by whose orders.	Remains 30th June
Spanish white — lb.	6	—	—	—	6
White lead — lb.	—	3	2	For the marking of the guns, } Colonel Harper	1
Scales and compasses fets	1	—	—	—	1
Musket ball cartridges —	45055	—	3356	To the European and Sea- } poys, Colonel Harper	41699
Carbine do. —	2000	—	—	—	2000
Musket flints —	1966	—	1185	To the European and Sea- } poys, do.	781
Carbine do. —	200	—	—	—	200
Musket blunt cartridges —	76174	—	36760	To the European and Sea } poys, do.	39414
Loose musket balls —	36	17666	—	From the European and Seapoys	17702
Drum heads —	10	—	—	—	10
Sticks — prs.	6	—	—	—	6
Cords —	17	—	—	—	17
Braces — fets	24	—	—	—	24
Snares — do.	23	—	—	—	23
Paper, country — reams	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	—	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Copper hoops —	14	—	—	—	14
Europe powder — lb.	108	—	—	—	108
Nabob's do. — do.	30	460	490	For the use of the morning and evening guns, and } Colonel Harper	—
Iron shot 26 pound. —	—	64	—	—	64
20 do. —	—	170	—	—	170
12 do. —	—	117	—	—	117
Shells 13 inch —	—	11	—	—	11
8 do. —	—	1	—	Found in the garrison	1
5 $\frac{1}{2}$ do. —	—	13	—	—	13
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ do. —	—	1	—	—	1
Iron grape of forts —	—	2550	—	—	2550
Stone shot, do. —	—	15873	—	—	15873

HENRY BROOKE, Military Storekeeper.

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Present

Present State of Ordnance and Stores in the Garrison of Tanjore, 13th August, 1776.

Qualities.	Quantity	Qualities.	Quantity
Detachment.		Tompions with collars	4
Brass guns, 6 pounders	4	Padlocks with keys —	12
Carriages with limbers	4	Handspikes,	
Tumbrils	4	Traversing	8
Round shot fixed, 6 pounders	424	Purchasing	8
Grape ditto ditto	96	Tarpaulins,	
Flannel cartridges ditto	79	Large —	2
Ditto empty bags —	99	Gun —	4
Cloth ditto —	146	Tumbril	4
Tubes filled —	802	Dupper's greafe and tar, each	1½
Port fires —	190	Yokes,	
Match,		Single —	4
Europe — fks.	12	Double —	12
Cotton — ditto	15	Country rope,	
Country — ditto	54	4½ inch coils	½
Tube boxes —	4	3½ ditto ditto	3½
Claw hammers —	4	2½ ditto ditto	1¼
Pinchers — prs.	4	Small coir for lashing bundles	3
Prickers and bitts, each	4	Sinnet — lb.	25
Spikes,		Twine,	
Round —	4	Europe — fks.	4
Ragged —	4	Bengal — ditto	4
Spring —	4	Country — lb.	3
Reliefs for ditto —	4	Spun yarn — balls	4½
Aprons of lead —	4	Private tents —	2
Spunges,		Gun flag —	1
12 pounders	2	Hambro' line — fks.	3¾
6 ditto —	14	Marline — ditto	12
3 ditto —	2	Parkline — ditto	1
Ladles,		Ditto pickets (shod)	12
12 pounders	2	Gun scrapers —	2
6 ditto —	4	Ditto searthers —	3
3 ditto —	2	Ditto filers —	3
Haverfacks and buckets each	8	Artificer's cart —	1
Drag ropes — prs.	4	Felling axes —	3

Continued.

Qualities.	Quantity	Qualities.	Quantity
Hand axes —	3	Lanthorn —	1
Sledge hammers —	1	Wax candles — md.	$\frac{1}{4}$
Hand ditto —	3	Cocoonut oil — seers	5
Anvil —	1	Linseed oil — galls.	
Pickaxes —	1	Wood oil — ditto	2
Bill hooks —	6	White lead — lb.	3
Mamolies —	15	Indigo — ditto	4
Hand saws —	2	Scales and weights — fets	1
Country ditto, large —	1	Musket ball cartridges —	41662
Rasps —	2	Carbine ditto ditto —	2000
Bench vice —	1	Loose musket balls —	17727
Hand ditto —	1	Musket flints, field —	702
Augers —	4	Carbine ditto ditto —	200
Gimblets —	4	Blunt cartridges —	39414
Planes —	2	Drum sticks — pairs	6
Bellows — prs.	4	Cords —	17
Spare axle-trees —	2	Snares — fets	23
Dammer — lb.	3	Braces — ditto	24
Chalk — ditto	6	Country paper — reams	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Solder — ditto	4	Cooper hooks —	14
Borax — ditto	1		
Canvas — yards	30	Garrifon.	
Wax cloth — pieces	1		
White ditto — ditto	2	Iron guns,	
Blue ditto — ditto	2	26 pounder	3
Gunny — pieces	8	20 ditto	4
Ditto bags —	37	16 ditto	2
Europe hydes —	$\frac{3}{4}$	12 ditto	6
Scissars — pairs	7	10 ditto	7
Laboratory knives —	6	9 ditto	2
Palms —	7	8 ditto	6
Needles,		6 ditto	21
Sail —	12	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ditto	8
Gunny —	5	4 ditto	7
Small —	53	3 ditto	6
Cotton thread — lb.	3	2 ditto	9
Rattan — bundles	6	1 ditto	14
		Swivels	

Continued.

Qualities.	Quantity	Qualities.	Quantity
Swivels $\frac{1}{2}$ pounder	14	A number of chests full of }	
Brafs guns,		powder	
20 ditto	1	Mamolies	900
$5\frac{3}{4}$ ditto	1	Iron crows	50
4 ditto	1	Bill hooks	100
2 ditto	2	Malabar gun,	
$1\frac{1}{2}$ ditto	1	22 inches	1
1 ditto	2	$19\frac{1}{2}$ ditto	1
Small brafs guns unservice- }		$16\frac{1}{2}$ ditto	1
able	11	$11\frac{1}{2}$ ditto	1
Brafs mortars,		$9\frac{1}{2}$ ditto	1
13 inch	1	$8\frac{1}{2}$ ditto	1
10 ditto	1	8 ditto	1
8 ditto	1	5 ditto	1
$5\frac{1}{2}$ ditto	1	9 ditto	1
Iron mortars, 8 inch	1	Iron Shells,	
Garrison carriages without }		13 inch	11
wheels, repairable	49	8 ditto	1
Ditto with wheels, ditto	24	$5\frac{1}{2}$ ditto	13
Truck carriages, ditto	8	$4\frac{1}{2}$ ditto	1
Spare wheels, ditto	39	Iron shot,	
Gunpowder a great quantity		26 pounder	64
Saltpetre ditto		20 ditto	170
Sulphur ditto		12 ditto	117
A quantity of coarse quick }		Iron grape of forts	2550
match unserviceable		Stone shot of different Calibres	15750
A number of empty chests		Ditto shells ditto ditto	172

HENRY BROOKE, Military Storekeeper.

Letter

Letter from Mr. Benfield.

*To the Honourable George Stratton, Esq. President and Governor, &c.
Council of Fort St. George, dated 8th September, 1776.*

Received over-land by Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

HAVING never given cause to Lord Pigot to draw his resentment on me, I was at a loss to find out the reason why his Lordship was induced to take measures against me so injurious to my credit and fortune as have been represented by me to the Board; I now clearly perceive that his views in so doing were interested, and that it was his own good, not that of the Company, he pursued in those measures during his late administration. As a servant to the Company, and wishing to bring to light the true motives of Lord Pigot's publick conduct, as well as in justice to myself, I take this occasion to inform your Honour, &c. that I have arrived at the knowledge of certain transactions of the late President Lord Pigot, such as his obtaining very large sums of money, jewels, and plate, to a great amount, from Indian Princes, contrary to covenants and the repeated orders of the Company, and which constitute him guilty of infringement of the late Act of Parliament.

As I am resolved to take every legal method, by prosecution or otherwise, here and in England, to prove beyond a doubt this delinquency and breach of public trust in his Lordship; and as I shall have occasion to apply to the Honourable Board to obtain certain evidences residing within the bounds of Tanjore, or in places belonging to his Highness the Nabob of the Carnatic, I trust I shall meet with your assistance and support.

I have thought it my duty not only to make those representations to your Honour, &c. but that they may be known to Lord Pigot himself,

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against

against whom I mean to commence prosecutions before the Courts competent in those cases.

Madras,
8th September, 1776,

I am, with respect,
Honourable Sir and Sirs,
Your obedient humble servant,
PAUL BENFIELD.

A true Copy.

R. J. Sullivan, Secretary.

Letter from George Stratton, &c. Council, to Mr. Benfield, dated Fort St. George, 17th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Mr. Paul Benfield.

S I R,

YESTERDAY we received your letter dated the 8th instant, and are at a loss to understand what you mean by the words *obtaining evidences*. The only way in which we can act is this, to recommend to the Princes in alliance with the Honourable Company to permit such of their subjects to come here as may be necessary to give evidence in any suits you may judge it proper to prefer against Lord Pigot, without interfering in any other respect either by our authority or influence.

We shall transmit copy of your letter, with our answer, to Major Horne, in order that he may communicate the same to Lord Pigot.

We are, Sir,

Fort St. George,
17th September, 1776.

Your most obedient servants,
GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

A true Copy.

R. J. Sullivan, &c. Secretary.

Translation of a Maratta Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore to the Honourable George Stratton, Esq. President and Governor, &c. Council at Fort St. George, dated 8th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

I SENT some cloths as a present, with a letter to your Honour, which you was pleased to accept of with great kindness; and, at the same time, your Honour was pleased to tell my Vackeels, Treumbaga, Saumbajee, and Rudrajee Pundat, that you would assist in all affairs of my Government. This particular news my Vackeels wrote to me, and also Colonel Harper acquainted me particularly with all news you wrote to him, by which I was so overjoyed that I cannot express it in my letter.

I am established in the Government by the protection of the Honourable Company, and they bear the heaviness of supporting me with sincere kindness. In all respects I depend on them, without taking any further consideration concerning my Government-affairs, which must be settled by your assistance and protection.

The Anracutt, or bank of the river Cavary, has been broke, which to repair, and to encourage the inhabitants of the country to carry on the cultivating business, will cost me one Lack of Pagodas, which sum I beg of the Honourable Company to lend me. The Poligars disturb the people in my country; I must take the trouble to reprimand them, and bring them into a proper way.

Concerning the above-mentioned three different affairs I wrote to my Vackeels, in order to explain them to your Honour in a particular manner.

I hope you will be pleased to take these affairs into your serious consideration, and get them done according to my Vackeels request. They will

will always attend on your Honour, and will apply to you for all the affairs of my Government.

I am as your youngest brother, and I shall not forget any of your kindnesses as long as I live; you are very sensible of this; I need not acquaint you of any thing further of my affairs.

What can I say more?

A true Copy.

R. J. Sullivan, Secretary.

Translation of a Maratta Letter from Tuljaujee, Maharajah of Tanjore, to the Honourable George Stratton, Esq. President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George, dated the 15th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

I AM to acquaint your Honour, &c. Gentlemen, that I have received your favour dated the 10th instant, which I have perused and am greatly rejoiced at it. I cannot mention in this letter what joy I felt on perusing of it. I find continually your Honours intend by several means to shew favour and assistance to all the subjects of my Government. As my Government was settled by the favour and assistance of the Honourable Company, all the honour and credit which they do me ought to be their's. I am informed by your letter of all the affairs which you intend doing for me in future; on being informed of this; I am perfectly satisfied, and carry in my mind all the favours that were done by the Honourable Company hitherto. I wish always that your favour and assistance to me may be encreased daily. You are sensible of every thing.

What can I say more?

A true Copy.

R. J. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

Extract

Extract of General Letter from George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Esquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires, dated Fort St. George, 21st September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

21. MR. FLOYER, whom your Honours were pleased to appoint Chief of Mazulipatam in succession to Mr. Whitehill, arrived here on the Greenwich. Mr. Whitehill had some months before obtained leave to go home, and the Chiefship being vacant on Mr. Floyer's arrival, that gentleman immediately made application to go down to Mazulipatam in consequence of your appointment. Lord Pigot positively refused his concurrence, observing that he had received information of some great abuses which had crept into the management of the Company's affairs at Mazulipatam, and that until these were enquired into and remedied he could not assent to Mr. Floyer's going down.

Civil Department.

Consult.
7th June.

22. On the 21st June Mr. Floyer was formally appointed to the Chiefship in consequence of your orders, Lord Pigot minuting upon the occasion, that he was of opinion your Honours had made "An improper appointment, not only in the manner in which it had been done, but as it was an injury to Mr. Floyer's seniors."

23. Mr. Floyer was still detained here in expectation that Lord Pigot would lay before the Board the information he had mentioned relative to the abuses existing at Mazulipatam. His Lordship took no steps for this purpose until the 9th of August, when he laid before the Board a draught of a letter which he had prepared for Mazulipatam, containing the substance of what he meant to offer on the subject of those abuses. On reference to it we doubt not your Honours will be equally disappointed with ourselves to find there was nothing mentioned by the President of any importance, or which ought to have detained

Revenue Department.

Consult. 9th
August.

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Mr.

Mr. Floyer a moment from his Chiefship.—The Chief and Council at Mazulipatam will be directed to enquire into the subject of the letter proposed by Lord Pigot to be sent to that Settlement, and Mr. Floyer himself will go down to take charge of the Chiefship after the departure of the Grenville.

28. In our consultation of the 28th June your Honours will find a minute entered by Lord Pigot, urging a variety of reasons to shew the propriety of appointing a Chief and Council at Tanjore, recommending that measure in the strongest terms to the Board, and proposing Mr. Russell to be Chief, and three other gentlemen, whom he named, to be of the Council. As we had received no previous information from Lord Pigot of this design, and had not ourselves the most distant idea that such a plan would ever be recommended to the Board, we expressed our surprize at the sudden manner in which it had been introduced, and requested Lord Pigot would not desire us to come to an hasty decision, but permit us to consider the subject well before we gave our opinions. His Lordship, notwithstanding, pressed us in the strongest manner for an immediate determination; and there appearing to us no other means of avoiding it than by a previous question, Sir Robert Fletcher made a motion to that effect; but Lord Pigot, contrary to all rule, would not suffer it to be put, still urging us to give an opinion upon his proposal. At length an expedient was found out to relieve us. Mr. Dawson had, before this time, been excused attending Council on account of his health, and the preparations he was making for his voyage to Europe, but at the particular request of the President he came to the Board on that day. Lord Pigot observed, that considering Mr. Dawson's situation, he could not with any propriety desire his attendance again; and mentioned this as one reason why he wished us to come to an immediate decision. Mr. Dawson thereupon expressing his readiness to attend the Board at any future time that might be appointed for taking the President's proposal into consideration, we were by this means only enabled to gain a respite of a few days.

29. On

29. On the 8th July the matter was again brought before us, and Mr. Dawson again attended for this purpose only. The President put the question for the appointment of a Chief and Council at Tanjore, which was thrown out by a majority. He then moved, that Mr. Russell might be appointed Resident at Tanjore, and carried the question by his casting voice.

30. For the opinions of the several members on these questions we beg leave to refer to our minutes.

31. Your Honours, on reading this part of our proceedings, will no doubt particularly notice the great impropriety and indecency of Lord Pigot's conduct, in urging the Council to decide upon matters of such great importance, without allowing them any time to consider and reflect upon the consequences. A procedure of this kind, if authorised and encouraged, would destroy every purpose of a Council, which is instituted expressly to deliberate with care and attention upon every measure that is proposed; had not an expedient, which proved convenient to his Lordship, been found out to relieve us, one of these alternatives would have happened; either we must have been forced to give our opinions totally unprepared, or we must have sat at the Council Board until we had made ourselves masters of the subject; which, considering its importance, and the necessity of referring to records, could not be in less than two or three days; or, lastly, we must have endeavoured to compel his Lordship to give us time, and that could not have been done without proceeding to the last extremities, since he had refused positively to put a previous question, or to listen to any proposal for an adjournment. The situation to which we were reduced was very distressing; and we mention our conduct in this instance as a strong proof, amongst many others, of our forbearance and moderation towards Lord Pigot.

32. The proposed appointment of a Chief and Council, and in failure of that, a Resident at Tanjore, upon which Lord Pigot required
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so hasty an opinion from us, has fallen under the particular notice of the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, as you will perceive by the late letter from them, to which we have referred in our address from the Military department. In that letter the opinions of the Governor and Council unanimously confirm the propriety of the reasons urged for opposing the measure.

Military department,
26th August.

33. Mr. Charles Mordaunt, one of your civil servants, having upon the arrest of Lord Pigot written a letter, wherein he refused to acknowledge the present Government, we were under the necessity of suspending him from the Company's service until your pleasure be known.

29th August.

34. Your Honours will find in our consultations from the other department a letter addressed to us by thirty-eight of your civil servants at the Presidency, declaring their sentiments on the late act by which Lord Pigot was put in arrest, and divested of the office of President of the Council; they take upon themselves in this letter to deny the legality of the government, to censure and protest against our proceedings; nevertheless they make a *voluntary offer* of their services to us in their several stations until your pleasure can be signified upon our conduct.

35. We confess it was a matter of some surprize to us to observe our proceedings arraigned in terms so disrespectful by any of your servants; but our surprize was much increased, when, upon reference to the list, we found that the greatest part of the gentlemen who subscribed this remonstrance were very young servants of the Company.

36. In whatever light our conduct might have appeared to these Gentlemen, we did imagine their duty to you would have induced them to respect our authority, and to obey our orders with chearfulness and alacrity; particularly at this time, when a zealous and firm union amongst the servants of the Company becomes so necessary to remove the effects of those violent proceedings by which the constitution of the government

government was destroyed, and the whole powers of the Company assumed by a single person.

37. Your Honours will no doubt remark how exceedingly improper it is in any of your junior servants to condemn, censure, and protest against any act of their superiors in which they are not concerned, and for which they are no ways responsible; such conduct can only tend by ill example, to destroy all subordination, and produce infinite difficulties in the management of your affairs; and you will accordingly find in the instance before us, that it has had this effect in a great degree already.

38. A few days after the remonstrance was delivered in, the President received an official letter from Mr. Robert Duncan Munro, one of the gentlemen who had signed it, which was addressed in the following words: "*To Mr. George Stratton, who styles himself President of the Council and Governor of Fort St. George.*" The President considering this step as rash and ill advised, took great pains, by means of Mr. Munro's friends, to make him sensible of the impropriety of his conduct; but he still persisted he was right, and would not alter the form of the address.

13th Sept.

39. The mode of proceeding which you have laid down for the trial of offences committed by your servants, is to furnish them with a copy of the charge against them in writing, and to give them a reasonable time to answer it; but this can only be observed in cases where the party may deny the accusation, and make it necessary to produce proof. In the present instance the fact was acknowledged and avowed by the party himself, no further proof was required; and Mr. Munro having had a reasonable time given him to repair his fault, if he had thought proper, was certainly treated with all the tenderness and circumspection which your orders so strongly enjoin.

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40. The

40. The offence committed by Mr. Munro was of such a nature as to require exemplary punishment. He was the first amongst those who signed the remonstrance that ventured openly to defy our authority. The terms of the address to our President were so highly indecent and disrespectful, as to add the greatest insult to that defiance. Under these circumstances, we were of opinion that Mr. Munro was a very improper person to be continued in your service, and accordingly resolved that he should be suspended therefrom until your pleasure could be known. He has since written a letter to us on the subject, and protested against our proceedings.

41. The next person who came under our notice for disobedience of orders was Mr. Joseph Revell, who held the office of Sub-Secretary of the civil department and Clerk of the Peace. We had judged it expedient to appoint this gentleman to be an assistant at Vizagapatam. He wrote a letter in consequence to the Secretary, remonstrating in very improper terms against the appointment, and observing that he hoped not to be removed from the office of Sub-Secretary without a good cause shewn, and a reasonable time given him to clear himself before a legal tribunal if accused; and that with respect to the office of Clerk of the Peace, as he was totally responsible to that legal authority which is constituted by his Majesty's Charter, so it was his intention not to resign, if indeed there were regular means of his doing so, as he thought there were not, before the quarterly meeting of that *legal court* by the authority of which he was appointed. For further particulars we beg leave to refer to the letter itself.

42. Being resolved to proceed with as much moderation as possible towards those gentlemen who thought proper to treat us with so little respect, hoping thereby to convince them of their error, and to bring them back to a sense of their duty, the only notice we took of this extraordinary letter from Mr. Revell was to repeat our orders for his proceeding to Vizagapatam; and to prevent any improper delay, we
limited

limited his departure to a certain day. In consequence he wrote a letter to our Secretary, observing, as he had done before, that he held the office of Clerk of the Peace by virtue of a power delegated by the Royal Charter; that he could not resign the charge of it to any person, without running the risk of a breach of office and duty in a station of the first importance to the community, and thereby expose himself to shame and punishment. At the same time he wrote a letter to the gentleman whom we had appointed to receive from him the charge of that office, informing him that he was unwilling to resign it, and that he should hold him, or any man who dared usurp it, amenable to the laws of his country.

43. Still unwilling to take that last step to which Mr. Revell by his conduct seemed desirous of compelling us, we gave him another opportunity of returning to his duty. He did not however think proper to accept it, and repeating a second time that he could not leave Madras, we were reduced to the necessity of suspending him from the service for a disobedience of our orders.

44. Before we quit this subject we shall beg leave to make a few observations. Mr. Revell held the offices of Sub-Secretary and Clerk of the Peace by the appointment of the President and Council, according to the usual form. As a servant of the Company the President and Council may surely employ him as they think proper, and for their conduct in this respect they are only responsible to you. Almost all your servants hold offices and employs, and if we are not at liberty to remove any of them upon other services, which may be more for your interest and advantage, though perhaps disagreeable to them, without explaining to them our reasons for so doing, we are likely to have a great deal of unnecessary employment upon our hands, and very little benefit from their services.

45. We

45. We do not mean to make any further examples of the same severity, if we can possibly avoid it; and we doubt not, after this great mark of our lenity, that any attempt to insult our authority, or to impede us in the administration of your affairs, will meet with your strongest disapprobation and displeasure.

46. We think it necessary to inform you, that Mr. William Harcourt Torriano, whose name is signed to the remonstrance from the junior servants, wrote a letter on the day it was delivered in, informing us that he had been too hasty in signing it; that he had endeavoured to withdraw his name before the paper was delivered, but not being permitted to do it, he now requested it might be erased, and we have complied with his desire accordingly.

Extract of General Letter from George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Esquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires, dated Fort St. George, 21st September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, the 2d of April, 1777.

Revenue department.

Honourable,

1. IN your separate letter by the Grenville, dated the 12th April, 1775, you were pleased to direct, that "So soon as affairs respecting Tanjore shall have been accommodated and finally adjusted, a Committee of your Council, consisting of five members, be appointed to make the Circuit of the northern Circars" for the purposes therein explained.

2. Your Honours will naturally imagine, that very little difficulty could have occurred in carrying these orders into execution; yet we may safely affirm, that we never before experienced so much debate and opposition upon any one single point, as we did upon the period which should be fixed for the departure of the Committee of Circuit.

3. On

3. On reference to our minutes on this subject, you will perceive that we wished the Committee to proceed upon the Circuit early, in compliance with the evident intention of your orders. Mr. Stratton, in the month of May last, delivered in a minute proposing their immediate departure, but withdrew it at the request of Lord Pigot, who was desirous of waiting the arrival of the second ship of the season from England before any steps were taken relative to the Circuit. Sir Robert Fletcher entered a minute on the same subject the 28th of June, and several other attempts were afterwards made to bring this subject again into discussion, but his Lordship continually waved it under some pretence or other. At length finding that he was resolved to delay the execution of your orders as long as possible, Mr. Jourdan formally moved, in Consultation the 26th July, that the Committee should be immediately sent upon the Circuit. The question was put, and carried for the motion; and, at a subsequent meeting, the time of their departure was set down for the 15th August.

4. Lord Pigot's views then openly appeared. From the 26th of July until the 5th of August no means were left untried to induce us to change our resolution. His Lordship pointed out other objects which he said were of more importance than the business of the Circuit. Messieurs Russell and Dalrymple, whom your Honours had appointed members of the Committee, declared themselves injured by having a day fixed for their departure, and remonstrated against it. In short, every obstacle that could be thought of was thrown in our way by Lord Pigot and these gentlemen, purposely to evade the execution of your positive orders by postponing the departure of the Committee.

5. Mr. Russell, in a letter addressed to the Board on this occasion, makes use of the following passage: " The Board, when fuller than at present, did me the honour of appointing me Resident at Tanjore, to settle the business there, and quiet the alarms in the Rajah's mind, before my services on the Circuit should be called upon; and I should

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“ hope they would not now frustrate that appointment, as I cannot but
 “ think it a highly necessary one ; it being well known, that the Nabob’s
 “ Sons took great pains, and made large offers to Mr. Dawson, to pre-
 “ vent the appointment taking place, and even now are indefatigable in
 “ their *nocturnal* visits.”

6. Here for the first time appeared the real cause of all the opposition which had been made to the departure of the Committee of Circuit. Mr. Russell, by the President’s casting voice, was, in Consultation the 8th July, appointed Resident at Tanjore, Mr. Dawson attending, and giving his voice for the appointment, although at his request he had been before exempted from all duty at the Board. When this resolution passed, it was declared and understood by every member, that the appointment of Mr. Russell was not intended to prevent his proceeding upon the Circuit, whenever it might be determined that the Committee should set out. Mr. Russell, after his nomination, remained here near a month, apparently without any cause ; but when the business of the Circuit was in agitation, he then claims his appointment of Resident at Tanjore, a service, which (if it were at all necessary) might as well have been executed by any other person ; and this evidently with a view to evade his duty as a member of the Committee of Circuit, an appointment expressly conferred on him by a positive order of his employers. Lord Pigot pressed Mr. Russell’s going to Tanjore, with an eagerness and anxiety still greater than Mr. Russell himself had shewn, and proceeded so far as to request it repeatedly at the Board, were it only for a few days, a circumstance particularly deserving your notice.

7. When Mr. Russell found that he could not be permitted to go to Tanjore, instead of shewing that ready compliance which is due from every servant of the Company to the resolutions of the Board, particularly when they are founded in your positive commands, he declared he could not be prepared to proceed on the Circuit before the 1st of October, which was six weeks after the period fixed by the Board for the departure

parture of the Committee, although he then held the important office of President of that Committee; Mr. Dalrymple also pleaded for more time; but the Board, seeing no end to the wilful delay of these gentlemen, and the necessity of dispatch becoming every day more urgent, it was at length resolved that they should leave the Presidency on the 31st of August.

8. Mr. Dawson, whom your Honours were pleased to name upon the Committee of Circuit, having obtained leave from us to go home, and Mr. Mackay, another member of your nomination, having, upon his application, been excused this duty by the unanimous consent of the Board, on account of his age, which renders him unable to perform a service of so much fatigue, we were under some difficulty in filling up the two vacancies. Upon this occasion, Mr. Floyer, though he had been appointed by you Chief of Mazulipatam, cheerfully offered his services in the room of Mr. Dawson; and Mr. Lathom, the Chief of Cuddalore, was appointed in the room of Mr. Mackay.

9. Thus, after encountering every species of opposition that could be formed against the execution of your orders relative to the Circuit, we at length succeeded.—We beg your Honours will be referred to our minutes for the particulars.

Consultat.
26th, 29th
July, 1st, 2d,
5th, 9th, 16th
August.

10. Having taken measures for putting the business of the Circuit in proper train, the first thing that came under our notice was the passage in Mr. Russell's letter before quoted, wherein he asserts, that the Nabob's Sons took great pains, and made large offers to Mr. Dawson, to prevent his (Mr. Russell's) appointment to Tanjore, and were still indefatigable in their nocturnal visits.

11. This passage, although very obscure, appeared to convey some kind of insinuation that was necessary to be explained. We knew not of any offers that had been made to Mr. Dawson; and if there were any,
it

it was his duty to have mentioned them to the Board before his departure. As to the rest, we proposed calling upon Mr. Russell for an explanation; but, before we could do this, Lord Pigot moved a question, which we think will appear to your Honours the most extraordinary that ever was entered upon record; it was in these words: "That if upon enquiry it should appear, that the *nocturnal visits* mentioned in Mr. Russell's letter to be made by the Nabob's Sons, be to members of the Board, such members be suspended from the Company's service until their pleasure be known."

12. This question was thrown out by a majority of eight to three. The attempt however to pass an order to condemn men unknown, unheard, and even before any charge was produced against them, betrays principles of the most arbitrary kind. His Lordship, it is true, pretends that his motion was founded on a resolution which had passed some time before, to prevent members of the Board from visiting or receiving visits from the Nabob or his family; but this resolution having been caused by a misrepresentation from the President respecting the standing orders of the Company, was afterwards rescinded by a majority of the Board, and could not therefore afford the least ground for the motion.

13. It is with great reluctance that we employ your time upon such irksome and disagreeable subjects. We shall only observe further, that when we called upon Mr. Russell to explain the remark in his letter, that the Nabob's Sons were still *indefatigable in their nocturnal visits*, Lord Pigot immediately observed, that Mr. Russell had received that information from himself; that what he meant by *nocturnal visits* was, visits made after sun-set; but as he had failed in his motion, to bring the punishment home, he should conceal the names of the offenders until another opportunity. To those who are not well acquainted with the customs of this country, the term *nocturnal visits*, as applied by his Lordship, might possibly convey an idea, that such visits from any of the Nabob's family to members of the Board are improper; but when it is understood, that amongst the Moors of distinction the

the only time of making complimentary visits is after sunset: the attempt to affix any idea of criminality to visits of this kind appears very unbecoming and injurious.

14. Your Honors will, we conceive, be no less astonished than concerned to see the President and another Member of your Council interrupting business of real importance to your interests, by frivolous and unjust attempts to traduce the characters of those who are acting in discharge of their duty, and are at the very time endeavouring, in opposition to those gentlemen, to carry into execution your positive orders. Had Lord Pigot or Mr. Russell been able to produce any real charge, it is difficult to imagine upon this occasion they would have concealed it; but the manner in which the attack was made, is the clearest proof that it was without any kind of foundation. No man charges by insinuation who can support what he advances. In the present case the attempt was to convey the idea of a charge only; and to proceed immediately from this to a vote of condemnation, is certainly an act of cruelty and injustice scarcely to be paralleled.

15. Messieurs Russell, Dalrymple, and Lathom, Members of the Committee of Circuit, having been suspended from the Company's service, as you will be advised from the military department, we were unable to fill up these vacancies from the Council, and still leave a sufficient number to transact your affairs at the Presidency. For this reason we have selected three senior servants of the Company under Council, Messieurs Peter Perring, James Daniel, and Quintin Craufurd, who, in conjunction with Mr. Johnson and Mr. Floyer, two Members of the Council, now compose the Committee of Circuit. We have prepared such instructions as appear to us necessary for their guidance. Messieurs Johnson, Perring, Daniel, and Craufurd will proceed on the Circuit immediately, but we have permitted Mr. Floyer to go first to Masulipatam, where he has been appointed Chief, and to remain there as long as he shall think necessary to acquire sufficient information respecting the affairs of that Chiefship.

Extract of Letter from the Governor-General and Council at Fort William, in their Secret Department, to the Court of Directors, dated 22d August 1776; received per Syren, the 26th April 1777.

Par. 12. WE are sorry to acquaint you, that we have been again under the necessity of exercising the controlling powers belonging to this Government,

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ment, in restraining and rectifying some irregularities in the Government of Madras, but more particularly in the conduct of my Lord Pigot towards the Nabob of the Carnatic. In the month of May last the Nabob wrote to us a very affecting letter, complaining amongst other things that Lord Pigot had sent a detachment of the Company's troops to arrest Narroo Pundit, the Dobbeer, his servant, in the town of Arialoor. As that place is situated far without the district of Tanjore, and within that of Trichinopoly, we could not help considering the fact, if proved, as a violation of the peace of the Carnatic, unless it had been committed by mistake, or that it was absolutely necessary for the execution of your commands: we thereupon wrote to the Council at Madras, to direct them to send us all their proceedings relative to the restoration of the Rajah of Tanjore; these having been transmitted to us, together with several other Letters and papers from the Nabob of Arcot, we took them into our serious consideration, and unanimously agreed to the Resolutions which were sent to Madras, accompanying our Letter of the 7th instant; they apply besides the act of hostility committed at Arialoor, to several other references since received from the Nabob, whereby it appeared that his honor, his dignity, and his independence, had been greatly injured without any necessity or provocation whatever.

13. These Resolutions have been formed as near as possible to the system which we observe, from the perusal of all your Letters and orders to the Presidency of Madras, you have had in view for maintaining a good intelligence with the Nabob, and more particularly for preserving to him those dependent rights inherent in him as sovereign of the Carnatic, which we find so fully expressed in the 31st and 32d paragraphs of your General Letter to the Commissioners, dated 23d March 1770, viz.

Par. 31. "When we reflect on the long experience we have had of Mahomed Aly's faithful attachment to the English Company, we are surprized at the idea entertained by the Governor and Council in their Letters of the 8th March and 27th June 1769, to reduce him to a mere nominal Nabob."

32. "The sanction of the treaty of Paris, by which treaty public faith became the guarantee of the Nabob's title, will be of little use to him, if notorious infringements of the rights and powers usually inherent in and dependent on such title, should be by us countenanced and permitted to take place."

14. We transmit you a copy of all our Proceedings on these subjects, which goes a number in the packet.

Extract of Letter from the Governor-General and Council at Fort William, in their Secret Department, dated the 12th September 1776; received per Syren, the 26th April 1777.

Par. 37. WE beg leave to refer you to our Letter of the 22d ultimo, and to the copies of our Proceedings which accompanied it, for our Resolutions and Directions to the President and Council at Fort St. George, on the improper and unwarranted conduct of the Right Honorable the President towards the Nabob.

38. When the Nabob of the Carnatic made his formal appeal to this Government against the violent and hostile acts of Lord Pigot, you will find that we unanimously declared them, after the most complete investigation of the Proceedings of the President and Council of Fort St. George, to be contrary to the Act of Parliament, by which the Company's Presidencies in India are prohibited from making orders for commencing hostilities against any of the Princes of India, without our consent and approbation. Here we stopped. Having established the offence, the obvious conclusion to be drawn from our declaration was, that we might, in case our Orders and Resolutions should be attended with no effect, proceed to the exercise of the controlling powers vested in us, and of course to pronounce the sentence of suspension against the President; at the same time we hoped that this harsh and severe measure would be unnecessary, as a large Majority of the Council at Fort St. George had united to oppose the measures which we had condemned, and we relied on their support for carrying our orders into execution. We contented ourselves therefore with laying down a rule to be observed by the President and Council in all their transactions with the Nabob, knowing that it was in the power of the Majority to abide by and enforce it, in virtue of the regular means which they possessed to govern the affairs of that Administration; but, to our great astonishment and alarm, we were informed, in a separate Letter addressed to us by the Majority, consisting of seven Members of the Council, that Lord Pigot had by artifice and violence attempted to exclude their two senior Members from the Government, in order to obtain a forced Majority in his favour; that they had therefore been compelled to protest against him, and three other Members who joined with him, and to separate themselves from that part of the Council.

10th Sept.

39. A

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10th Sept.

39. A few days after we received a Letter from Lord Pigot acquainting us, that having found it necessary to put Sir Robert Fletcher into arrest for circulating seditious papers in the Garrison, (which papers we suppose to have been the protest) Colonel Stuart was appointed to command the army ; and that his Lordship had been made a prisoner by Colonel Edington, through the means of Colonel Stuart, and carried in confinement to the Mount, where he was placed under the charge of Major Horne. That a day or two after, a party of soldiers, under the command of Colonel Edington, had been sent to remove his Lordship from the Mount, but he had resolved not to submit to it ; and that Commodore Sir Edward Hughes having gone to pay him a visit, he had claimed the protection of his Majesty's flag ; and Sir Edward Hughes had promised to receive him on board the Salisbury, if permission could be obtained for that purpose.

40. Alarmed and concerned, as we must be, to see the Government of Madras in dispute between the two contending parties in the Council, and in danger of falling into anarchy between them both, we find ourselves under the disagreeable necessity of taking a firm and decided part in their divisions ; and though the Majority have not yet informed us of all the circumstances which compelled them after their separation to assume the Government, and to throw their late President into confinement, yet the rights and powers of your Governments in India, being, by the original constitution of them, vested and established in the Majority of the Council, we thought it incumbent on us to acknowledge them as the legal administration of the Presidency of Fort St. George, and to offer them our assistance in support of their authority. To remove any doubts which either party may entertain of the powers of a Majority of the Council, we have sent them copies of your late orders to this Presidency, contained in the 17th, 18th, and 19th paragraphs of your Letter per Lioness, dated 31st January last.

Extract of Secret Consultations, Fort William, 7th August 1776; received per Grenville the 25th of April 1777.

RECONSIDERED the proceedings of the Right Honorable the Pre- Secret de-
sident and Council of Fort St. George, on the subject of the representa- partment.
tions from the Nabob of Arcot, which the Board concluded reading the
31st ultimo.

The Governor-General delivers in the following Minute on the subject.

FOR the clearer understanding of the Nabob's complaints, I have extracted them from the several Letters which he has lately written to this Government, and formed them into the following distinct articles.

1st. That an English officer, at the head of sixty troopers and a party of Seapoys, by Lord Pigot's order, entered the town of Arialoor, belonging to the Government of the Carnatic, surrounded the house occupied by Narroo Pundit, Dobbeer, a principal servant of the Nabob, and by other servants of the Nabob, forced away the Seapoys whom he had stationed with them as a guard, seized and carried them prisoners, with all the Nabob's papers which were in their charge, public and private, to Tanjore to Lord Pigot.

2d. That Lord Pigot caused the lands which had been assigned for payment of the Nabob's troops stationed in Tanjore to be taken from the charge of his agents, in breach of a promise made and repeated by Lord Pigot in person to the Nabob, that the assignment should be continued for the purpose of discharging the arrears of pay due to the said troops.

3d. That Lord Pigot caused other assignments of the grain and revenues of Tanjore, which had been mortgaged by the Nabob for payment of debts contracted in the reduction of Tanjore, and for the service of the country after the reduction of it, to be taken from his creditors.

4th. That Lord Pigot caused a " Proclamation to be made in the
" fort, and through all the districts of Tanjore, that no one should
" give protection or rice to any of the Nabob's people, but bring them
" forth; and even that if any person gave shelter to any of the Nabob's
" servants, he should be considered as criminal."

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5th.

5th. That the most creditable and ancient servants of the Nabob, who were at Tanjore, were treated with great indignities by the dependants of Lord Pigot, and some of them detained in prison by the Rajah, even so late as the month of May last.

6th. That Lord Pigot sent people at midnight to seize and carry away some of the Nabob's Reiahs from the door of his house.

7th. That Lord Pigot threatened the Nabob, that he would place a guard of soldiers at his door, and used other violent and menacing language to the Nabob, in the presence of the Nabob's brother, his sons, and of his whole court.

8th. That an English officer with a company of Seapoys, by order of Lord Pigot, entered the countries of Ramnaut and Shew-Ganga, belonging to the Nabob, and took forcible possession of certain districts in both, under pretence that they belonged to Tanjore.

9th. That a party of Seapoys forcibly entered the Kella of Woodiar-pollam, belonging to the Nabob, with orders from Lord Pigot to seize Mahomed Hebrax Khan, a principal servant of the Nabob, but that missing him they searched all the houses, and carried away and ill-treated many of the inhabitants.

Observations on the above Charges.

Vide Nabob's Letter to the Governor-General and Council, No. 1. 2. 3. 1st. This the Nabob complains of, as an act unbecoming even towards an enemy; a degradation of his character in the eyes of the world; a hostile invasion of his country; a violation of friendship and faith; derogatory from the honor of the Company; contrary to the guarantee by which the English Nation is bound to him; irreconcilable with his right as an ally to the King of Great Britain, and productive of distrust in his subjects, and anarchy in his government.

Vide Nabob's Letter to Mr. Stratton, dated 22d April, and entered in Consultation the 24th April, p. 55.

Lord Pigot's account of this affair, and his motives, may be collected from the following passages in his Diary, his Letter to the Nabob, and the General Letter of the President and Council of Fort St. George to this Board.

|| Bengal Country Correspondence is not come to hand.

Extract

Extract from the Diary of Lord Pigot, Consultation, 13th May.

" Gave Captain Tonyn orders to proceed with the troop to Vickerum
" to escort the Dobbeer hither."

Extract of a Letter from Lord Pigot to the Nabob, entered in Consultation 13th May.

" I am sorry to observe to you, that I found, as I passed through the
" country, the proper officers, with all the accounts, had been removed by
" your orders from every village, and I was soon informed that every
" part of the country was in the same situation; every means had been
" taken to throw difficulties in my way in the execution of the Company's
" orders, and to distress the country and inhabitants. In this situation
" I thought it the properest method to escort the Dobbeer here by the
" Company's troop of cavalry."

Extract of a Letter from Lord Pigot to the Nabob, entered in Consultation 13th May.

" Your son Ameer-ul-Omrah, perhaps forgot to inform you, that
" Nurroo Pundit, the Dobbeer, after Tanjore was taken, told your son
" he would not desert his master in his misfortunes, and refused to act
" until he carried him to the Rajah, and desired him to lay his commands
" upon him. Was it noble? was it generous? was it honorable? was it
" just, to imprison this venerable old man, between seventy and eighty
" years of age; this public officer, this first officer of the Tanjore revenue; this officer of the public, not your Highness's servant?"

Extract of a Letter from the President and Council of Fort St. George to the Governor-General and Council, dated the 13th June.

" Our President acquaints us, that as he passed through the Tanjore
" country, he found the proper officers with all the accounts had been
" removed by the Nabob's orders from the villages, and was soon informed that every part of the country was in the same situation; that
" every means had been taken to throw difficulties in his way in the
" execution of the Company's orders, and to distress the country and
" inhabitants; that without the assistance of the Dobbeer and his accounts
" it would have been impossible for the Rajah to have obtained any
" knowledge

" knowledge of the Revenues, or indeed to have been properly placed
 " in the management of his country : this man having been first mi-
 " nister, and in fact governed the Tanjore country for these fifty years
 " past. That after Tanjore was taken, he told the Nabob's son,
 " who commanded there for his father, that he would not desert his
 " master in his misfortunes, and refused to act until he carried him to
 " the Rajah, and desired the Rajah, to lay his commands upon him,
 " That on his (the President's) proceeding to Tanjore, the Nabob ordered
 " the Dobbeer to be sent out of the Tanjore country with all the public
 " accounts ; that the Dobbeer had retarded his journey by various pre-
 " tences, and sent a message to the Rajah, desiring that he might be con-
 " ducted to Tanjore : the troop which attended the President was there-
 " fore sent to escort him, but when the troop arrived at the place whence
 " the message to the Rajah had been sent, they found the Dobbeer had
 " been conveyed from thence to Arialoor, whither the commanding
 " officer of the troop followed, and escorted him to Tanjore."

The sum of the above extract is, that Lord Pigot did cause the Dobbeer
 to be arrested by a military force, and brought by force to Tanjore ; for
 this is certainly implied by the expression " escorted," so frequently re-
 peated by Lord Pigot in his explanation of this transaction. The reasons
 assigned for it are, 1st. That the Dobbeer had carried off with him all the
 accounts of the revenue of Tanjore, which it was necessary to recover for
 the security of the collections, and for the re-establishment of the Rajah's
 Government ; and 2dly, That the Nabob had compelled the Dobbeer to
 engage in his service contrary to his own inclination, and to the fidelity
 which he owed to his late master. In opposition to the first of these rea-
 sons, it is affirmed by Mr. Benfield and Mr. De Souza, that the only ac-
 counts which the Dobbeer carried away with him were the general accounts,
 kept in the Persian and Maratta languages, and corresponding with those
 which are called Sudder Accounts in this country ; but that all the ac-
 counts of the collections which regard the detail, the Mossufful accounts
 remained in the hands of the inferior officers of the collections in each village
 and district. The testimony of these persons, from the interest which they
 appear to have had in the subject, might be liable to objections ; but it
 remains undisputed, and its exact agreement with the practice and usage
 of our provinces is a strong presumption of its truth. The second reason
 alledged in justification of the seizure of the Dobbeer, namely, that he had
 been forced to accept the Nabob's service, though at best it is but a re-
 crimination, and by no means an excuse for the violence used in his release,
 refutes itself by the strange inconsistency of compelling a man to accept the

the most responsible and lucrative trust in the country, which it concerned the Nabob's interest to bestow on a man on whose integrity and devotion he could rely (for his ability, without these qualifications, would rather be an objection to his being employed in it) and which the first man in the Carnatic would have accepted with thankfulness. If this is insufficient, the fact asserted by the Nabob, that the Dobbeer was a prisoner in Tanjore when it was taken by him, and released by his authority, and the Letters of the Dobbeer to the Nabob, which bear the most evident marks of authenticity, put the matter beyond all doubt that the Dobbeer was voluntarily engaged in the Nabob's service, and actually in his service, when Lord Pigot issued the orders for arresting him.

Upon the whole I think it is clearly proved, that in this instance the conduct of Lord Pigot is contrary to the Act of Parliament, which declares, that, " It shall not be lawful for the President and Council of Madras to make any orders for commencing hostilities against any Indian prince or power, without the consent and approbation of the Governor-General and Council first had and obtained, except in such cases of imminent necessity, as would render it dangerous to postpone such hostilities, &c. and except in such cases, where the said President and Council shall have received special orders from the United East-India Company ;" and it may be added, that it is equally contrary to the rights of the Nabob, which the Company, in their orders under which Lord Pigot professedly acted, expressly direct to be maintained, and to the national faith, pledged by the alliance subsisting between the Nabob and the Company.

2, 3. The second and third Articles, although the debates upon them occupy a great portion of the Minutes of the Council of Fort St. George, yet do not, in my apprehension of the Act of Parliament, fall within the controlling powers vested by it in this Government ; neither are we furnished with materials by which we can be competent judges of the points in dispute.

4. This charge is extracted from the Nabob's Letter to Lord Pigot dated 29th April, and entered in Consultation the 13th May. No reply is made to it in any of the subsequent Letters of Lord Pigot to the Nabob, nor is any further notice taken of it on the Proceedings.

It will rest with the Board to determine whether they will take up the charge, or consider it as not yet properly before them for want of proof, or whether

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whether the silence of Lord Pigot on such an occasion is to be deemed an acknowledgment of it. The fact itself, if admitted, certainly amounts to a declaration of the most hostile kind against the Nabob, and demanded his Lordship's reply, if it was either falsely related, or could be justified by any circumstances attending it, especially as it was to be transmitted with the other Records of the Presidency of Fort St. George, for the express purpose of informing this Board of the manner in which the Company's orders had been carried into execution, and for its judgment thereon.

5. This charge appears in the following Extracts of the Nabob's Letter viz.

Extract of a Letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot, dated 29th April, and entered in Consultation 13th May.

“ AND my managers, persons of considerations as above-mentioned, pursuant to the orders I gave them, made no opposition to the people sent by you; notwithstanding which, single guards of your people treated my principal managers, in the face of my numerous army, with more dishonor and disgrace than even an enemy is subject to, and, after confining them with indignity, seized their papers.”

Extract of a Letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot, dated 6th July, and entered in Consultation 12th July.

“ I HAVE full reliance on the equity of your masters, and am persuaded that instead of being pleased, they will be uneasy at hearing of these affairs; that they will not approve of my being made to sustain such heavy losses, and that they will place no dependence upon accounts, which by violence and oppression, and keeping my clerks and managers under confinement, you have caused them to make out according to your own dictates.”

From the same to the same.

“ YOUR people, in conjunction with Tuljaujee, behaved in such a manner to my principal officers and servants, some of whom, from father to son, had been for years in the service of my family, and all of whom were gentlemen and persons of distinction, that it was impossible

"ble for them to have gone through greater disgrace, dishonor, or ignominy. Some of my servants are even to this day in confinement under the authority of Tuljaujee, and the Company's people."

Both the Proofs and Answer to this are also yet wanting. It seems indeed to be implicitly denied by the following Motion made by Lord Pigot in Consultation 12th July.

"The Nabob complaining in the foregoing Letter that some of his people are kept in confinement at Tanjore, the President proposes that a Letter be wrote the Nabob, to request he will inform the Board who they are, that we may apply to the Rajah to procure their releasement, if unjustly kept in that situation.——"

6. This charge appears in the following Extracts, viz.

Extract of a Letter from the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes, entered in Consultation the 3d June.

"AS Lord Pigot, on a former occasion, ordered people to enter my garden in the middle of the night, pretending that he had information that I had ordered some people to be ill-treated there."

Extract from the Nabob's Letter to the Governor-General.

"Lord Pigot sent a man to my door at midnight, and forcibly carried away my Reiat."

The following is Lord Pigot's account of the affair.

Extract Consultation of the 6th June.

"On the 10th May I received the following report from the head Hircarrah."

Report of the Head Hircarrah.

"After the Nabob took the Marvas country, the Circar's people plundered every thing belonging to the said Marvas managers; among the

“ the rest one Vellayan Chervatar's house was plundered; his daughter
 “ remained in the said country very poor.”

“ One Verapilla, an enemy to her, told the Nabob that she was worth
 “ money; upon which he ordered her to be brought under guard to him;
 “ and accordingly she, and two more women, and about thirteen men,
 “ were brought to Chessauck, the Company's bounds, a few days ago;
 “ but upon examining the woman, there was no money to be got from
 “ her as was expected. On this the said enemy told the Nabob, that if he
 “ would send her back along with him to the said country, he will put
 “ her to torture and recover the money. The woman would not go, for
 “ fear they will murder her; but they are forcing her to go, and she de-
 “ clares if she is forced she will kill herself. As she is now in the Com-
 “ pany's bounds, sent to acquaint your Lordship with the above violence,
 “ and beg you to save her life; and as it is my duty to acquaint you with
 “ any news or violence that might be committed in the bounds, I thought
 “ fit to make this report to your Lordship.”

“ The President was upon a visit, and at supper, when he received this
 “ information; and as the Nabob's gardens and those to the Company's
 “ house join, he ordered the Hircarra to wait at the gardens, till his re-
 “ turn, and to watch if these people passed. About eleven o'clock, the Pre-
 “ sident stopping at the gardens in his way to the Fort, was informed
 “ that the woman was not come away, but that some of the people were
 “ carried off towards St. Thomè; upon which the President thought pro-
 “ per to direct the officer of the guard to send a Havildar and some Sea-
 “ poys, who overtook them at St. Thomè; and the President at the same
 “ time gave to Saib, one of the Company's waiting Peons, the written in-
 “ formation he had received, and directed him to carry it to the house of the
 “ Nabob, where many of his servants generally are, and to desire that the
 “ women might not be removed till he saw the Nabob in the morning.”

The subject scarce merited so long a discussion of it in this place, in the
 midst of so many other grievances of much more importance; but as the
 Council of Fort St. George appear to have taken up the intimation made
 by the Nabob, as a formal complaint against Lord Pigot, I have therefore
 inserted his reply.

7. The Nabob's relation of this affair is contained in the following Ex-
 tract from him to Sir Edward Hughes,

“ Lord

“ Lord Pigot, not content with the low and disgraceful state to which
“ he has reduced my authority by the measures which he executed at Tan-
“ jore, has lately threatened to subject me to the most personal dis-
“ grace.”

“ On the 27th instant, at eight o'clock in the morning, he came to my
“ Durbar, and in the presence of my brother Morpewt Khan Bahadar,
“ and my sons Omdah-ul-Omrah Bahadar and Aameer-ul-Omrah Bahadar,
“ and Keerim Moodin Khan, declared, in the most determined and threat-
“ ening tone of voice, that he would place an European guard upon my
“ house to keep me a prisoner in his power; and naming Members of the
“ Council, he said they were rascals, and that he would dismiss them
“ from the service. He said also, that all the white-faced fellows were ras-
“ cals, and that he would not allow any of them to see me: also he asked
“ Omdah-ul-Omrah and Aameer-ul-Omrah why they did not kick out
“ all such rascals? The cause of this outrage was my having written
“ him a Letter on the 26th instant, a copy of which is enclosed, repre-
“ senting the injustice which he did me, by ordering a military force
“ to march into the Raminade country, to deprive me of some districts
“ there, and putting them in possession of Tuljaujee! Can there be any
“ oppression equal to depriving a man of his right, and then threatening
“ him with the greatest disgrace if he dares to make a representation of
“ that right?”

And the following is his Lordship's account of it.

Extract of a Letter to Sir Edward Hughes from the President and
Council, in Consultation, 3d June.

“ OUR President assures us, that the Nabob has totally misunder-
“ stood him; that he never had a thought of placing any guard over
“ him, although he feared, and expressed those fears to the Nabob, that
“ the encouragement his Highness gave to European visitors, and the
“ impediment to public business, arising from the intrigues carried on by
“ them at his Durbar, would lay him under a necessity to place a guard
“ to bring such persons to him, that he might be acquainted with the
“ nature of their business.”

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This explanation is an acknowledgment of the fact, although it qualifies the intent of it. However such a declaration may have been expressed, it was certainly a great indignity to the Nabob, and if not an hostility in the literal sense of the words of the act of Parliament, it was in its natural tendency more likely to destroy the friendship which has so long subsisted between the Nabob and the Company than acts of overt and avowed enmity, from the deep wound given to the Nabob's honor and personal feelings. It was most undoubtedly the design of the Legislature, in investing this Presidency with a control over the rest, to preserve an uniformity in their political operations, and to prevent the affairs of the Company from being embarrassed by contradictory engagements, or endangered by wars, dictated by the desultory caprice or interest of individuals, who possessed the temporary rule. Every species of insult or violence, which has a direct tendency to provoke hostilities against the Company, and stamp on them the reproach of having been the aggressors in any consequences which might ensue, is contrary therefore to the spirit and intent of the act of Parliament, or the act was passed in vain; since there are a thousand ways by which it may be alluded, without "making any orders for commencing hostilities, or declaring or making "war," which are the express terms of the act; and if such acts are generally prohibited, how much more ought they to be guarded against, by the utmost vigilance and exertion of the controlling Government, in cases which are likely to dissolve the connexion of the Company and of the British Nation with the first and firmest ally that they ever possessed in India.

It is true, that on this, and every other occasion in which the Nabob has thought himself aggrieved, he has observed the most patient forbearance, both in his own conduct and in the orders issued to his officers; but this is no argument of the rectitude of the measures of which he complains, nor a proof that the peace of the Carnatic has not been disturbed by them. This Board will probably think it incumbent upon them to judge of those acts by their consonancy to the act of Parliament, and by their tendency, not by their real effects.

Had the Nabob been possessed of less moderation, or perhaps been less fearful of forfeiting the alliance which long habit had cemented into a friendship with the British Nation, he might have retaliated the hostilities offered him. A war might have ensued. He might have sought the alliance of Hyder Ally Khan, or of the Marattas, or thrown himself on the protection of the French; and his friendship, power, and influence, irrecoverably

irrecoverably lost to the British Nation. This might have been the consequence of such provocation; the world might have approved his resentment, and attributed to the aggressors the blame of having sacrificed the faith and interest of the Company, the peace of the Carnatic, and the benefits resulting from the alliance with the Prince of it, to their violence and intemperance.

8th. The particulars of this transaction may be collected from the following places in the Fort St. George Consultations.

The Nabob's Letter to Mr. Stratton, in Consultation, 29th April.

Consultation of 16th May.

Letter from the Nabob to Commodore Sir Edward Hughes, in Consultation, 3d June..

In the Letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot, in the same Consultation, and in Consultation of the 25th June.

THE sum of the whole is, that Lord Pigot caused possession to be given to the Rajah of Tanjore of certain districts in the countries of Ramnaud and Shew-gango, better known by the Names of Marrawa and Neelcota, forcibly removing the Nabob's people who had charge of them. The Nabob alledges, that these districts never appertained to Tanjore, and that it was the rebellious invasion of them by the Rajah in 1771 which drew on him the Nabob's resentment, and the first expedition against Tanjore; and that the Rajah afterwards disclaimed all future pretensions to them in writing. On the other hand, Lord Pigot and the Council of Fort St. George join in affirming, that the districts in question were actually in the Rajah's possession in 1762, and therefore are now restored to him. "As it appears that the Company's orders are, that the Rajah shall be put in possession of such places as he held when the treaty between him and the Nabob was guarantied by the English," I cannot doubt that there were better grounds for this assertion, since the whole Board seem to have joined in it, than the quotations which they have introduced to prove it; which do not prove it; on the contrary, they serve rather to cast doubts on the justice of the Rajah's pretensions,

since it appears, that although the Rajah was in possession of these districts in the year 1762, and before the conclusion of the treaty, he had then but newly acquired them by violence; which the Nabob complained of as an act of injustice and usurpation, and re-claimed the places as his property in the very Letter which is quoted in proof of the Rajah's right of possession. Whether they were restored to him, or remained in the Rajah's possession, does not appear; but it may be presumed, from the present Rajah's Letter to Mr. Dupré, dated 25th March 1771, and entered in Consultation of the 25th June, that he was not at that time in possession of them; and it is not probable that he recovered them in the low state to which his power was afterwards reduced, by the consequences of the first expedition against his country. I have read with attention the General Letter of the 12th April 1775, but cannot find any passage in it which directs, that the Rajah shall be put in possession of such places as he held when the treaty of 1762 was concluded; unless the 20th paragraph of the General Letter may admit of such a conclusion. The reverse may be inferred from the 30th paragraph of that Letter, which, alluding to the Rajah's invasion of the countries of Marrawa and Neelcota as the assigned cause of the first expedition against Tanjore, admits the Rajah to have been "reprehensible on that account;" an admission, which, by an infallible consequence, allows the Nabob's right to retain the possession, until it should be proved that it belonged to the Rajah by the treaty of 1762. But granting that the Company's orders have directed that the Rajah shall be restored to the possession of all that he held at that time, and granting that he had at that time the possession of the districts in question, yet surely there could be no excuse for employing a military force to expel the Nabob's Agents, until application had been first made to him in form and he had refused to restore them. Such a proceeding would have been improper even towards a neutral prince, much more so towards the Nabob of the Carnatic. Had the mode which I have mentioned been observed, it is most likely, from the general tenor of the Nabob's conduct, that he would have refused his consent, but sent orders of acquiescence to his agents. In default of such orders his agents might have repelled the hostility offered to them, and in that case, Lord Pigot, who issued the order, would certainly have been the aggressor. It is observable, that the promise made to the Rajah to put his people in possession of Hanamantagoody, &c. (the districts in question) was not written until the 15th May, when Lord Pigot was at Madras; and however urgent the occasion might have been, there could not have been the least delay in making the application to the Nabob, as the place
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of the Nabob's residence is separated but by a wall from that of his Lordship's.

In this instance I think it is clearly proved that Lord Pigot was guilty of an unnecessary, unauthorized, and unjust act of hostility against the Nabob.

9th. This complaint is but recently mentioned in the Nabob's Letter to the Governor-General, dated the 25th Jeme-de-ul-awul. It merits enquiry, and ought for that purpose to be transmitted to the President and Council of Fort St. George.

In enumerating the specific articles of complaint exhibited by the Nabob against Lord Pigot, I have passed over the principal matter of complaint, and that from which all the rest have originated, namely, his deprivation of the country of Tanjore, this being in effect an act of the Honorable Company, and perhaps not imputable to Lord Pigot; and if so, not subject to the revial of this Government. Yet I cannot avoid one obvious remark, which has been suggested to me by a careful perusal of their orders, which seems to imply a different intention from that understood by the Right Honorable the President and Council of Fort St. George. In these orders the Company seem to have felt the delicacy and danger which might attend the execution of them, and for that cause to have marked with precision the line to which they might be extended, but allowed a large discretionary power to moderate the effect of them. They do not even direct, in express terms, that the Nabob *shall* be dispossessed, nor that the Rajah *shall* be restored, although they say they are "*Resolved to contribute towards the restoration of the King of Tanjore;*" and order the President and Council "*To inform him, that they have determined to replace him upon the throne of his ancestors, upon certain terms, &c. without infringing the rights of Mahomed Ally Khan, the Nabob of the Carnatic.*"

These expressions, taken in their plain and literal sense, would seem to imply, that although it was their fixed design to restore the Rajah of Tanjore, yet the execution of it was reserved to an indefinite time; and that the security of his person, and the conditions of his re-establishment, were the only points which their present orders required to be adjusted; yet I think it plain from the subsequent instructions, which could not be carried into effect without the Rajah's previous restoration, nor delayed

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without much confusion and danger, that they intended, by these cautious intimations of their wishes, to leave the time and mode of their accomplishment to the discretion of the President and Council. According to this construction, the Government of Fort St. George were authorized, but not commanded, to proceed immediately to the restoration of the Rajah, provided the express conditions directed in their orders, and the maintenance of the Nabob's rights, could be previously secured; and without these conditions, and this reservation, they were not authorized to restore the Rajah. These conditions are detailed and explained with so minute an exactness, as leave no room or latitude either for misconception or for deviation from them.

The subject is of that importance, that I have thought it necessary to be very minute and particular in collecting the sense of the Company's orders; they are the only test by which we can obtain a proper judgment of the conduct of Lord Pigot, and of the Presidency of Fort St. George, in their late proceedings respecting the Nabob of Arcot and the Rajah of Tanjore, which are a connected series of hostilities, every one of which, not authorized by the special orders of the Company, or by imminent necessity, is an infringement of the Act of Parliament, which vests the ordering and directing of such hostilities solely in the Governor-General and Council of Bengal. I do not mean to examine too closely the rights of the Nabob, as they may be affected by these transactions, except in those instances in which the Company's orders have been palpably exceeded, and his rights violated. Some I have already noticed; I shall now proceed to others, which are not mentioned as distinct articles of grievance in the Nabob's Letters, though involved in them, but which appear in the Minutes of the Consultations.

In the 8th Paragraph of their instructions, the President and Council are ordered to assure the Rajah of Tanjore, that "If the annual amount" of the expenses of the Company's troops allotted to the garrison of Tanjore "shall at any time be less than the revenues assigned to the Company, the surplus of the said revenues shall be faithfully returned to him; but if the expense of the garrison shall exceed the amount of the revenues so assigned, then the King of Tanjore shall make good the deficiency."

The equity of this rule has been totally set aside by the President and Council of Fort St. George, in the stipulation made by him,

and confirmed by them, of a fixed subsidy to be paid by the Rajah.

Though the sixth paragraph directs, that " a garrison of the Company's troops shall be admitted into the fort of Tanjore," yet there is not the least intimation of a desire, that the whole Country of Tanjore should be protected by the Company's troops; and the resolution of the President and Council to that effect on the 25th of April, although followed by an offer of the Rajah to the same purpose on the meeting between him and Lord Pigot, is both a diminution of the Rajah's " authority over his subjects," and an infringement of the rights of the Nabob " of the Carnatic," by the power thus exercised over the Nabob's Vassal, to the total exclusion of his sovereignty: this measure is therefore unauthorized, contrary to the orders of the Company, and illegal.

The appointment of a civil resident at Tanjore having passed, with much opposition from some of the Members of the Council of Fort St. George, on the grounds of its being contrary to the Company's orders, it may be necessary to advert to it, although I do not conceive it liable to that objection, nor the propriety of it to fall within the cognizance of this Board.

There are two passages in the correspondence of Lord Pigot with the Nabob, which, though only speculative, yet, as they are declaratory of the principles of his political conduct, ought not to be passed unnoticed: I shall quote them at large.

Extract

Extract of Lord Pigot's Letter to the Nabob, dated 20th April.

" I WILL never interfere in your business, &c. but when that business
" is connected with the interest of my employers ; in such case you may
" be assured that I shall always act as appears to be proper ; and as
" you are their old friend and ally, I dare say you will approve of my
" making use of your authority."

Extract of Lord Pigot's Letter to the Nabob, dated 13th May.

" SHALL the gates of Aialoor, or any other gates in the Payen
" Ghaut, be shut against the troops of the Company, who have fought
" for you near thirty years, when they ask admittance by my authority?
" I hope not. This would be an improper return to the man who put
" your Highness in possession of them, upon your solemn assurances that
" there was no distinction between you and the Company, and that
" you wished it only for the appearance it would have with the country
" powers."

I believe that these doctrines have made the same impression on every Member of the Board as that which I myself felt in perusing them. In effect I think them more alarming in their tendency to subvert the political system, which has been forming during the space of thirty years past in the Carnatic, than any specific act which has yet been committed against the rights of the Nabob or the interests of the Company ; because, if admitted as ruling principles, there is no species of violence and indignity, which can be offered to the Nabob, to which they may not be applied. If it be allowed to the President of Fort St. George to make use of the Nabob's authority, even in the Nabob's own affairs when they are connected with the Company's interests, it necessarily follows, that the President must be the judge of the connexion ; and as the choice of measures is left also to his pleasure, he may employ the Nabob's authority both against the will, right, property, and even the person of the Nabob. The consequences of the right claimed by Lord Pigot to enter every gate in the Carnatic with the Company's forces are equally dangerous, as the right itself, if admitted, would be a direct subversion of the Nabob's sovereignty over the Carnatic.

The principal rank which the East-India Company occupies among the powers of India, renders them in every political step which they make an object of general attention, and too often of general alarm. In their concerns with their neighbours and allies, the most scrupulous observance of their public engagements and of the rights of others ought to be their first and ruling object; for every Prince and state, whose possessions may stand within sight of the Company's ambition, is naturally led to apply to their own interests the treatment which they see others receive from the Company and their dependants.

I have been told, I know not with what truth, that the Nabob Asoph O'Dowlah received a very early information of the Company's late orders, no doubt exaggerated, concerning Tanjore, and expressed great apprehension of the consequences of such a precedent. It is easy to trace the progress of such an impression, on a mind even less weak than his, to effects of the most fatal kind, the certain production of distrust, and the care of self-preservation.

To qualify the past acts in such a manner as may efface the public impression made by them, and conciliate the Nabob's mind without departing from that pursuit of justice which has hitherto impelled the Honourable the Court of Directors thus far to espouse the cause of the *Rajah of* * Tanjore, is not within the power of this Board. This depends on higher authority; nor will even this be sufficient. With respect to the part which this Government has to act, if the other members of it agree with me in opinion of the past conduct of Lord Pigot, and of the unhappy temper which has actuated it, I think that they have but this alternative, either to proceed to the rigorous extremity pointed out by the act of Parliament, or to employ some mode of protection, by which the Nabob may be guarded against future wrongs and indignities, until the final remedy shall be prescribed by the Honourable Company. I own I much incline to the latter, and for that purpose shall propose, if no better expedient be suggested, that a person be appointed to reside with the Nabob of Arcot, as the Minister and Representative of this Government, empowered to receive both such communications as the Nabob may think proper to make to this Board, and in our name to call upon the Governor and Council of Fort St. George for the suspension of every act of their's, by which the Nabob's rights may be usurped or infringed, or the Company's faith or the National honour endangered.

* The words, "*Rajah of*," are not in the Original.

Vide the Nabob's letter to the Governor-General, No. 132. *

The Nabob himself has requested that a person might be deputed to Fort St. George, to witness and to report to us the truth of his complaints; and the present disposition of many of the members of the Council of Fort St. George, affords an additional reason for the belief that such an appointment strengthened with the powers which I have recommended to be annexed to it, will prove the most effectual, as it will be the least exceptionable means of protection which can be afforded the Nabob.

For the redress of the past there is but one subject which I think can admit of it, the transfer of the districts of Marrawa and Neelcota to the Rajah of Tanjore. My opinion is, that if the Nabob still persists in his claim to these districts, the Rajah should be obliged to relinquish them to his agents, and a commission appointed to examine upon the spot the foundation of their respective pretensions. This Commission may be formed either of persons chosen by the two parties, or by agents nominated by the President and Council of Fort St. George, with the consent of both parties, if that can be obtained, and their award transmitted to this Board for confirmation.

A true extract and copy of the Governor-General's minute.

J. P. AURIOL, Secretary.

Letter from Andrew Stuart Esquire, to the Chairman of the Court of Directors.

S I R,

IT may possibly appear to you, or to some of the gentlemen in the Direction of the East-India Company's affairs, somewhat singular, that during your late important discussions, where the propriety of my brother's conduct was directly or indirectly brought in question, there should have been no symptoms of my taking any interest in these matters, nor any attempt made to prevent or remove prejudices, with regard to the part Colonel Stuart had acted during the late unhappy convulsions at Madras.

It is on that account that I now take the liberty of addressing to you this letter, to explain the reason of my silence hitherto, and at

* N. B. Bengal Country Correspondence is not come to hand.

the same time to communicate to you, without reserve, the state of my mind with regard to the reported transactions at Madras, and the proceedings which I am informed these reports have recently given rise to in this country.

From the 18th of March to the 5th of this month I was not in London, having gone to Scotland, where I was necessarily detained, attending my re-election, during the very period which I now understand was so much occupied here by disputes and proceedings relative to the Madras business.

From this you will perceive, that supposing me to have been disposed to take a part in these disputes, my necessary absence from London had deprived me of the opportunity.

But I may venture to go one step further, by assuring you, that even if I had been upon the spot, the only part I should have taken during that period of imperfect information, would have been to request the Directors and Proprietors to suspend their opinions of my brother's conduct, until there should be an opportunity of investigating, and learning with certainty, what that conduct and the motives of it had truly been.

Even at this hour I do not think myself sufficiently informed, in these respects, to be able to form a decisive opinion; it is my intention to collect the best information that can be obtained of the real transactions, and after examining, to the best of my judgement, the accounts given by the contending parties, I shall then have no difficulty in declaring to you sincerely the point of view in which these matters present themselves to me.—I have not the presumption however to suppose, that any judgment that may happen to be formed by me on this subject, is to have influence in forming or altering the opinions of others.

It may easily be supposed, that in this enquiry, I wish exceedingly that I may have reason to think that my brother has acted properly, and in such a manner as may entitle him to the approbation of the public; so conscious am I of the earnestness of this wish, that I shall endeavour as much as possible to be upon my guard against its misleading my judgment;

judgment; nor shall I willingly suffer myself to be engaged, either in any precipitate unauthorized defence or approbation of my brother's conduct, or in any attack upon the conduct of others with whom he has happened to differ upon this occasion.

I will fairly own to you, that the arresting and confining the person of a Governor appears to me a strong measure, and such as requires very powerful reasons to justify it;—I shall further acknowledge, that if the accounts given by one party of the mode in which this was accomplished, and of the circumstances attending it be strictly true, there is something in it which conveys to me a very disagreeable impression; nor shall I attempt to reconcile to the minds of others, what I find so difficult to reconcile to my own.

If the facts as stated could be supposed to be true, and that the only defence for the mode in which the arrest of Lord Pigot's person was conducted and completed shall be, that there was no other possible method of avoiding bloodshed and civil war, the fate of the person unfortunately obliged to make the option in such an alternative must have been very disagreeable and distressing; for I can hardly suppose a man so constituted, as not to feel strong reluctance and aversion to employ the methods ascribed by one party to Colonel Stuart in the accomplishment of Lord Pigot's arrest.

It is so improbable that these things should have happened in the manner they are related, and if strong measures have been resorted to at Madras, the materials for judging of the necessity of them are at present so incomplete, that justice and candour require us to suspend our judgements with regard to the conduct of the principal actors, until that conduct and the motives of it are properly investigated, and that all parties shall have an opportunity of being heard.

Great pains I understand have been taken in various quarters, not only to excite the greatest degree of prejudice against my brother's conduct, but to hurry the Directors and Proprietors into precipitate opinions and resolutions, which are of such a nature, as infer both judgment and condemnation before trial.

I am

*See post
Signature 48*

Extract of the Proceedings of a General Court of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies, held at their House in Leadenhall Street, on Wednesday the 23d April, 1777, at Twelve o'Clock at Noon.

P R E S E N T,

GEORGE WOMBWELL, Esquire, Chairman,
WILLIAM DEVAYNES, Esquire, Deputy.

With most of the Directors, and a very numerous appearance of the generality.

The Chairman acquaints the Court, that it is called to communicate the proceedings of the Court of Directors, in consequence of the resolutions of the General Court on the 26th and 31st March last, and of the advices lately received from Fort St. George, offered to the Court a report from the Court of Directors relative to those proceedings.

The same was read, being as follows, viz.

“ A report of the proceedings of the Court of Directors, since the General Court of the 26th day of March last, respecting the misconduct of the Company's servants at Madras.”

“ Your Court of Directors being desirous to carry the resolutions of the General Court of the 26th and 31st days of March last into execution as soon as possible, met on the 1st April instant (being the next day after the said resolution by ballot was agreed to) for that purpose, and found it necessary, before they could proceed to any determination upon the important matters referred to them, to read the

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dispatches:

dispatches received from Madras by Colonel Capper, subsequent to the meeting of the General Court on the 26th day of March last, and thereupon the Court of Directors came to a resolution ;” and the same was read to the General Court.

At a Court of Directors, held on Tuesday the 1st April, 1777.

On a motion, “ Resolved, That this Court do meet from day to day, at 12 o'clock precisely, to take into consideration the advices lately received from Fort St. George, and the proper measures to be pursued in consequence of the resolution of the General Court the 26th ultimo, for restoring Claud Russell, Alexander Dalrymple, John Maxwell Stone, and Richard Lathom, Esquires, to their offices in the Council at Fort St. George,” and of another resolution of the General Court, the 31st ultimo, “ For restoring Lord Pigot to the full exercise of the powers vested in him by the commission from the Company, as Governor and President of the Settlement of Madras, and for enquiring into the conduct of the principal actors in imprisoning his Lordship, and dispossessing him of the exercise of the legal powers wherewith he was invested ;” and in case any legal doubts or difficulties shall arise on such consideration, that the opinion of council be taken thereon for the satisfaction of this Court,

In pursuance of that resolution, your Court of Directors met day by day 'till they had read the whole of the dispatches at this time received from Madras.

And on consideration thereof, your Court of Directors seeing that the disputes at Madras were of a very important nature respecting the constitution of the Company, and the Court wishing to give full information upon the various subjects of dispute, and of all the proceedings

dings relative thereto, to the proprietors, on the 4th instant came to a resolution for printing the papers on that business.

And the same was now read.

At a Court of Directors, held on Friday the 4th April, 1777.

The Court proceeded further into the consideration of their resolution of the 1st instant, relating to affairs on the Coast of Coromandel.

And a motion being made, it was resolved unanimously, " That the orders for removing Mr. Wynch, in consequence of the Tanjore war, the commissions to the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, as President and Governor, and as Commander in Chief of Fort St. George, and the orders given to his Lordship and his Council, also the Company's commission to Sir Robert Fletcher, as Commander of the Company's troops on the Coast of Coromandel, and the Consultations and other records on political subjects from the arrival of Lord Pigot to those last received from that Presidency, be forthwith printed for the use of the proprietors."

At the same time this resolution was passed, your Court of Directors hoped that the papers would have been printed in time to have been put into the hands of the Proprietors several days before the meeting of the General Court; but, from their length, and unforeseen delays, they could not be got ready for delivery 'till yesterday.

On the information contained in the dispatches before mentioned, your Court of Directors, on the 4th April instant, came to the following resolutions respecting the appointment of a military commander on the Coast of Coromandel.

And the said resolutions were now read.

43

At a Court of Directors, held on Friday the 4th April, 1777.

It was, on a motion, resolved unanimously, "That in consideration of the present state of the Company's affairs on the Coast of Coromandel, it is highly proper and expedient to appoint an officer of ability and experience to take upon him the chief command of the Company's forces there."

And another motion being made,

And the question thereon being put by the ballot,

It was resolved unanimously, "That Colonel Hector Munro be appointed to take upon him the chief command of the Company's forces on the Coast of Coromandel."

Before the Court of Directors had taken any further proceedings, sundry letters and papers forwarded by Mr. Dalrymple from Marseilles were received, which were read by the Court on the 8th instant, and are printed in the above-mentioned collection of Madras papers.

Afterwards the Court of Directors entered very fully and deliberately into the consideration of the further measures to be pursued for carrying the resolutions of the General Court into execution, and for restoring government and good order in the Settlement of Madras; in which so many difficulties arose, that a very great difference in opinion happened in the Court of Directors. In the course of these proceedings (on the 9th instant) some measures proposed were agreed to, and others rejected.—Your Court of Directors think it proper to lay the whole before this General Court.

And the said proceedings were now accordingly read.

At

At a Court of Directors, held on Wednesday the 9th of April, 1777.

“ The Court of Directors having taken into their most serious consideration the present distracted state of the Government of Fort St. George, are of opinion, that a commission be forthwith prepared under the seal of the Company, nominating and appointing five persons to restore the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot to his office of Governor, and his place of President of the Settlement of Madras, and to enquire into the late transactions, and the abuses and disorders which have prevailed there. And for the enabling such persons to prosecute such enquiry, this Court are also of opinion, that another commission be prepared under the Company’s seal, nominating and appointing such persons to be the President and Council of the said Settlement of Fort St. George, during their residence within the same, which shall not exceed twelve months from their arrival at Fort St. George, and to vest in them full powers for the supervision and management of the affairs of the Company in the Carnatic; such powers to commence and take place from and immediately after the time that publick proclamation shall be made thereof at Fort St. George, which proclamation shall not be made until after Lord Pigot shall be restored, as aforesaid.”

And the Court having very maturely considered of the said motion;

And the question thereon being put by the ballot;

The same passed in the negative.

At a Court of Directors held on the 11th instant, a resolution was proposed, and the question thereon determined by lot, agreeably to the directions in the Company’s charter.

And the said resolution was now read.

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At a Court of Directors, held on Friday the 11th of April, 1777.

THIS Court very maturely considering the present state of the Government of Fort St. George, the violence committed upon the person of the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, President and Governor of the said place, in seizing him by a military force, and keeping him in confinement; and having also taken into consideration the resolutions of the General Court of the 26th ultimo respecting these proceedings, and the determination of the question by ballot, on the 31st ultimo, in the following words, viz.

“ That it be recommended to the Court of Directors to take such measures, as shall appear to them the most effectual for the restoring Lord Pigot to the full exercise of the powers vested in him by the commission from the Company, as Governor and President of the Settlement of Madras, and for enquiring into the conduct of the principal actors in imprisoning his Lordship, and dispossessing him of the exercise of the legal powers wherewith he was invested;” are of opinion, and

It was thereupon moved,

“ That the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot be restored to the full exercise of the powers vested in him by the commission from the Company, as President and Governor of that Settlement, agreeable to the above recommendation.”

“ That Claud Russell, Alexander Dalrymple, John Maxwell Stone, and Richard Lathom, Esquires, be reinstated (agreeable to the resolution of the General Court) in their offices as members of the Council, from which stations they were excluded, though no charge of misconduct appears to have been exhibited against them.”

“ That

" That George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Esquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Knight, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires, having privately assembled, without a convention of the whole Council, or even notice given to the other members, and having instructed Colonel James Stuart to take such measures as to him shall appear proper to place the Fort, Garrison, and Fort-House, under their command, and to arrest the person of Lord Pigot, or of any other person who shall obstruct him in the execution of such purpose, have violently subverted the Government by a military force, and that their conduct was altogether unjustifiable, and of the most dangerous tendency."

" That for the above conduct, George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Esquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires, be forthwith suspended the Company's service, and not restored but by order of the Court of Directors."

" That the following gentlemen be of Council at Madras :

The Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, President and Governor.

Thomas Rumbold, Esquire, second and to succeed.

Colonel Hector Munro, third and fixt.

John Whitehill,
Claud Ruffell,
Charles Smith,
Alexander Dalrymple,
Samuel Johnson,
Alexander Davidson,
Peter Perring,
Richard Lathom,
Edward Cotsford,
John Maxwell Stone."

" That as several members of the Council will necessarily be employed in the subordinate settlements, it will be expedient that Claud

Ruffell,

Russell, Alexander Dalrymple, John Maxwell Stone, and Richard Lathom, Esquires, who have from their situation been involved in the late disputes, shall be selected for those stations."

" That Lord Pigot's proceedings, as President of the Council of Madras, appear to have been in several instances reprehensible."

" That this Court will give positive orders respecting the powers to be exercised by a majority of Council."

" That this Court will consider of proper and effectual measures for supporting the just rights and claims of the Nabob, and the authority of his government."

And the question on the said motion being put by the ballot, there appeared an equality of votes for and against the same.

Two lots were accordingly prepared, pursuant to the directions in the Company's charter, and the Treasurer being called in, drew the lot, which determined the question to be carried in the affirmative.

On the 16th instant the Court of Directors received a letter from Mr. Manship, containing objections to some parts of the said resolution of the 11th instant.

The said letter was now read.

GENTLEMEN,

I SHOULD think myself inexcusable, did I not take the first opportunity of delivering to you my reasons for balloting against the several resolves contained in the motion made at our Court the 11th instant, conceiving as I do the subject to be of the utmost consequence to the Company, and consequently therefore to the nation,

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In conveying these sentiments I shall state the resolutions, and wherein I differ from them; but first I must premise, that I totally disapprove the principle, and upon the most mature consideration declare, that in my opinion no other mode can be effectual but that of appointing Commissioners, *as set forth* in my letter of the 23d ultimo; and having no doubt but that we are thoroughly competent to appoint such an embassy, without interfering in the least with our Governor and Council, upon this ground I proceed to state my objections to your resolutions. I remain with esteem,

GENTLEMEN,

Queen-Square,
16th April, 1777.

Your obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN MANSHIP.

The Honourable the Court of Directors
of the United East-India Company.

This Court very maturely considering the present state of the Government of Fort St. George, the violence committed upon the person of the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, President and Governor of the said place, in seizing him by a military force and keeping him in confinement; and having also taken into consideration the resolutions of the General Court of the 26th ultimo respecting these proceedings, and the determination of the question by ballot on the 31st ultimo in the following words, viz.

That it be recommended to the Court of Directors to take such measures, as shall appear to them the most effectual for the restoring of Lord Pigot to the full exercise of the powers vested in him by the commission from the Company, as Governor and President of the Settlement of Madras, and for enquiring into the conduct of the principal actors in imprisoning his Lordship, and dispossessing him

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of the exercise of the legal powers wherewith he was invested;" are of opinion, and

It was thereupon moved, " That the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot be restored to the full exercise of the powers vested in him by the commission from the Company, as President and Governor of that Settlement, agreeable to the above recommendation.

" That Claud Russell, Alexander Dalrymple, John Maxwell Stone, and Richard Lathom, Esquires, be reinstated (agreeable to the resolution of the General Court) in their offices as members of the Council, from which stations they were excluded, though no charge of misconduct appears to have been exhibited against them."

The preamble, 1st, 2d, and 3d resolves, I agree to, except that the enquiry should be made by Commissioners, to be appointed *as* stated in my letter of the 23d ultimo.

" That George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Esquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Knight, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires, having privately assembled, without a convention of the whole Council, or even notice given to the other members, and having instructed Colonel James Stuart, " To take such measures as to him " shall appear proper to place the Fort, Garrison, and Fort-House, " under their command," and to arrest the person of Lord Pigot, or of any other person who shall obstruct him in the execution of such purpose, have violently subverted the Government by a military force, and that their conduct was altogether unjustifiable, and of the most dangerous tendency."

" That for the above conduct, George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Esquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires, be forthwith suspended

ded the Company's service, and not restored but by order of the Court of Directors."

I should approve, with this alteration ; after the word *by*, should follow, *the majority of the Commissioners.*

" That the following Gentlemen be of Council at Madras :

The Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, President and Governor.

Thomas Rumbold, Esquire, second and to succeed.

Colonel Hector Munro, third and fixt.

John Whitehill,
Claud Russell,
Charles Smith,
Alexander Dalrymple,
Samuel Johnson,
John Maxwell Stone,
Edward Cotsford,
Richard Lathom,
Peter Perring,
Alexander Davidson, Esquires.

I cannot agree that the whole Council shall be arranged, 'till the examination is made. The first eleven should be of Council, and such of them as are in England, or at the subordinates, should be forthwith ordered to return to their seats on pain of suspension from the Company's service.

" That as several members of the Council will necessarily be employed in the subordinate settlements, it will be expedient that Claud Russell, Alexander Dalrymple, John Maxwell Stone, and Richard Lathom, Esquires, who have from their situation been involved in the late disputes, shall be selected for those stations."

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I cannot agree to this, it appearing to me very partial to give those gentlemen the most advantageous appointments, without being fully acquainted with such of their merits or demerits as may appear upon a full investigation on the spot ; besides, I think it would not be giving them a fair opportunity of justifying themselves, supposing any thing should be alledged against them ; and therefore I am of opinion they should remain on the spot, but not be allowed to vote on any question which respects their own conduct ; and the Chiefships should be filled up, *during the residence of the Commissioners*, by the four first gentlemen under Council.

“ That Lord Pigot’s proceedings, as President of the Council of Madras, appear to have been in several instances reprehensible.”

I agree to.

“ That this Court will give positive orders respecting the powers to be exercised by a majority of Council.

“ That this Court will consider of proper and effectual measures for supporting the just rights and claims of the Nabob, and the authority of his government.”

The general letter will of course explain these resolves.

And I would recommend to be added, as the 10th Resolve ; That all delinquents not appearing to the Commissioners deserving of restoration, should be immediately sent home before the Commissioners leave Madras, and that the Council do consist of the first thirteen who shall not be found deserving suspension.”

And at the desire of some members, two other letters from the same gentleman to the Court of Directors, dated the 23d of March last and 5th instant, were also now read.

To the Honourable Court of Directors of the United East-India Company.

GENTLEMEN,

AS a very particular private engagement prevents me attending to-morrow, I desire leave to submit my opinion in writing upon the business which will come before that Court; the idea I have of its importance makes any apology unnecessary. Gratitude as a Proprietor and as a Director, and consequently an immediate servant of the Company's, make me feel myself indispensably obliged to step forth, when a character of such distinguished abilities, integrity, and honour, as that of Lord Pigot, has been so grossly attacked.

Were I to recapitulate the many striking testimonies contained in the Company's records, which have been given of his Lordship's attachment to the honour and interest of the Company, I should fill a volume; and I will venture to say, that no history can produce such unheard of barbarity, as appears to have been practised in the making that noble Lord a prisoner, if the letter before us be even nearly the truth, *and the whole truth*. I am then of opinion, that the only prudent method we can take, is immediately to send out a deputation of not less than five, of the most respectable characters that can be found, (neither of which should have ever been in India) to investigate the whole of this extraordinary business, if it can be legally done, with full powers immediately to send to England all those who shall appear to have been delinquents, in order to their being dealt with according to law; and to arrange a Council immediately, and then to return home; for upon no account should any one of these gentlemen remain in India.

A mode like this appears to me to be free from objection, as I cannot conceive the matter should by any means be left entirely to the Governor-General and Council, more especially, as it plainly appears

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by the above-mentioned letter, that those gentlemen have already taken a decided part, and declared that they would support Mr. Stratton in the chair. I have no objections to make them acquainted with every line of the instructions to our Commissioners, nor do I think it incompatible with strict justice to send the same to his Lordship, and all the Gentlemen lately of Council at Madras; but my opinion is, that no other mode of Government repugnant to the orders given to Lord Pigot and the Council, should on any account be adopted 'till a representation be made at home, and if found necessary, directed from hence; being thoroughly persuaded the more that business is investigated, the more it will turn out to the honour of those Directors who concurred therein; and although I have not subscribed the letter, it must have arisen from some accident, as I most heartily approve the orders therein contained.

I have the honour to remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient and very humble servant,

Compton F^d. Place,
the 23d March, 1777.

JOHN MANSHIP.

Queen's Square, the 5th April, 1777.

GENTLEMEN,

AS a temporary deputation of five Supervisors seems now to be the mode likely to be adopted by the Court for the restoring tranquillity at Madras, I take the liberty of offering my services to be of the Commission, at the same time also assuring you, when I did myself the pleasure of hinting this in my letter of the 23d past, that I had then no such intention; but being since flattered by some respectable characters that I may be of service, I have therefore presumed to make you a tender thereof. I shall only add, that I wish my abilities were more

more equal to the importance of the embassy; such however as they are, I promise you to exert them to the utmost, and that I will in every instance endeavour to co-operate with the rest of the gentlemen that you may think proper to appoint, being on all occasions most zealously attached to the honour and interest of this great Company.

I remain with esteem,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient and very humble servant,

To the Honourable Court of
Directors of the United
East-India Company.

JOHN MANSHIP.

That since the 11th instant several others of the Directors, who dissented from the said resolution of that date, have delivered in a protest, stating their reasons for such dissent.

And the said protest was now read.

This Court having, on Friday the 11th instant, come to a ballot on the nine following resolutions, relative to the disputes at present subsisting in the Presidency at Fort St. George, viz.

“ This Court very maturely considering the present state of the Government of Fort St. George, the violence committed upon the person of the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, President and Governor of the said place, in seizing him by a military force, and keeping him in confinement; and having also taken into consideration the resolution of the General Court of the 26th ultimo respecting these proceedings, and the determination of the question by ballot on the 31st ultimo in the following words:

“ That

" That it be recommended to the Court of Directors to take such measures, as shall appear to them the most effectual for the restoring Lord Pigot to the full exercise of the powers vested in him by the Commission from the Company, as Governor and President of the Settlement at Madras, and for enquiring into the conduct of the principal actors in imprisoning his Lordship, and dispossessing him of the exercise of the legal powers wherewith he was invested;" are of opinion, and do therefore

1st Resolve, " That the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot be restored to the full exercise of the powers vested in him by the Commission from the Company, as President and Governor of that Settlement, agreeable to the above recommendation."

2d Resolve, " That Claud Russell, Alexander Dalrymple, John Maxwell Stone, and Richard Lathom, Esquires, be reinstated (agreeable to the resolution of the General Court) in their offices as Members of the Council, from which stations they were excluded, though no charge of misconduct appears to have been exhibited against them."

3d Resolve, " That George Stratton and Henry Brooke, Esquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Knight, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires, having privately assembled, without a convention of the whole Council, or even notice given to the other Members, and having instructed Colonel James Stuart " To take such measures as to him shall appear proper to place the Fort, " Garrison, and Fort House, under their command," and to arrest the person of Lord Pigot, or of any other person who shall obstruct him in the execution of such purpose, have violently subverted the Government by a military force, and that their conduct was altogether unjustifiable, and of the most dangerous tendency."

4th Resolve, " That for the above conduct, George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Esquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Pal-

mer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires, be forthwith suspended the Company's service, and not restored but by order of the Court of Directors."

5th Resolve, " That the following Gentlemen be of Council at Madras :

The Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, President and Governor.

Thomas Rumbold, Esquire, second, and to succeed.

Colonel Hector Munro, third, and fixt.

John Whitehill

Claud Russell

Charles Smith

Alexander Dalrymple

Samuel Johnson

John Maxwell Stone

Edward Cotsford

Richard Lathom

Peter Perring

Alexander Davidson, Esquires."

6th Resolve, " That as several Members of the Council will necessarily be employed in the subordinate Settlements, it will be expedient that Claud Russell, Alexander Dalrymple, John Maxwell Stone, and Richard Lathom, Esquires, who have from their situation been involved in the late disputes, shall be selected for those stations."

7th Resolve, " That Lord Pigot's proceedings, as President of the Council of Madras, appear to have been in several instances reprehensible."

8th Resolve, " That this Court will give positive orders respecting the powers to be exercised by a majority of Council."

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9th, Resolved, " That this Court will consider of proper and effectual measures for supporting the just rights and claims of the Nabob, and the authority of his Government."

On which ballot the numbers being equal, the decision was made by drawing a lot, and the resolutions were thereon declared to be carried in the affirmative.

We, the Directors subscribing hereto, who opposed the same, being convinced of their impropriety, and dreading the mischiefs and losses which may occur to the Company from carrying them into effect, judge it necessary, in behalf of ourselves and our constituents, to enter our dissent thereto on record, and to make this our solemn protest.

We dissent first, because although we utterly disapprove, with our brethren who supported the resolutions, of the removing of George Lord Pigot from the office of Governor, displacing him from being President of the Council of Madras, and arresting his person, and in excluding Messieurs Russell, Dalrymple, Stone, and Lathom, from their seats in Council, as acts of violence on the part of the majority, unconstitutional, and of the most dangerous tendency; and are desirous of concurring, agreeable to the recommendation of the General Court of Proprietors, in proper measures for restoring him in a manner consistent with the safety, the peace, and the welfare of the Settlement; yet are of opinion, with the Directors who voted for the resolutions, that Lord Pigot is reprehensible for his conduct in many instances; and in particular,

Because the powers contended for, and assumed by Lord Pigot, are neither known in the constitution of the Company, nor authorized by Charter, nor warranted by any orders or instructions of the Court of Directors, but contrary to a standing order of the Company, which declares, that " Whatever shall be agreed on by the majority, shall be esteemed

esteemed the order by which each one is to act; and accordingly every individual person, even the dissenters themselves, are to perform their parts in prosecution thereof; and in so doing they do their duty, and must not be blamed for the event."

Because the refusal of Lord Pigot to put questions in the Council, and his declaration, that an act of the majority without his concurrence is not an act of the Government, were irreconcilable with his duty as President of the said Council.

Because the conduct of Lord Pigot, in the exclusion of Mr. George Stratton, and Mr. Henry Brooke, from their seats in Council at Fort St. George, upon a charge made against them by his Lordship, and putting the question against them jointly, and without allowing them a reasonable time for their defence, and thereby obtaining a majority in the said Council, was arbitrary and unconstitutional.

Because we think it highly improper, in the present state of this business, to order Messieurs Ruffell, Dalrymple, Stone, and Lathom, to be stationed at the subordinate factories.

Because it appears to us, that the most rational and effectual means of restoring peace to the Presidency of Fort St. George and the Carnatic, and of preserving and supporting the rights, and of promoting the prosperity and interest of the Company, and at the same time enforcing due obedience to the orders which may be sent out, is to institute a Commission to restore Lord Pigot, with full powers also to commence an enquiry into the transactions and disorders which have prevailed at Fort St. George; and this we apprehend is the reasonable and fair construction of the resolution of the General Court of Proprietors.

Because

Because the said resolutions do not institute such Commission, the necessity of which, and of a full enquiry into the late transactions on the Coast of Coromandel, appears to us to be essentially necessary.

George Wombwell

John Roberts

Tho^s. Rumbold

W. G. Freeman

George Tatem

Wm. James

J. Stables

Fred^k. Pigou

John Harrison.

“ On the 21st instant several letters and papers received from Fort St. George were read in the Court of Directors.”

And the minutes of the said Court, containing the particulars of those letters and papers were now read.

At a Court of Directors, held on Monday the 21st April, 1777.

The following letters and papers were read, viz.

The 7th, 8th, and 9th paragraphs of the letter from Lord Pigot, dated the 26th of September, 1776.

Copy of a letter from Lord Pigot to the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, dated the 29th of August.

Copy affidavit of the Honourable Edward Monckton.

Copy of Mr. George Smith's dissent, as one of the Aldermen of the Mayor's Court, to a resolution of the Court against granting a Writ of Habeas Corpus.

Copy

Copy of a letter from Lord Pigot to Sir Edward Hughes, dated 30th of September.

Copy of a letter from Lord Pigot to Sir Edward Hughes, dated 7th of October.

Minutes of consultation, 23d of August, 1777.

Mr. Cotsford's letter, dated 20th of April.

Colonel Capper's letter, dated 19th of April, containing remarks on Mr. Dalrymple's letter from Alexandria of the of January last.

On the 21st and 22d instant the Court of Directors considered of and passed several resolutions.

And the same were now read.

At a Court of Directors, held on Monday the 21st of April, 1777.

THE Chairman, agreeably to an intimation given on the 18th instant, submitted several propositions to the consideration of the Court.

And it was moved, and, after a long debate, resolved by the ballot, That it appears from the papers transmitted relative to the late transactions at Madras, that the distractions which have prevailed in Council there have thrown the affairs of the Company into great confusion, and endangered the safety, peace, and welfare of that Settlement.

The following motion was then made, viz. " That the powers contemplated for, and assumed by Lord Pigot, are neither known in the constitution of the Company, nor authorised by charter, nor warranted by any orders or instructions of the Court of Directors."

And the standing orders of the 3d of January, 1678, and the 9th of March, 1702, being read, it was moved to postpone the consideration of the said motion; and the question being put by the ballot, it passed in the negative.

It was then, after mature deliberation, resolved by the ballot, That the powers contended for, and assumed by Lord Pigot, are neither known in the constitution of the Company, nor authorised by charter, nor warranted by any orders or instructions of the Court of Directors.

Another motion was then made; " That the proposition to send Mr. Russell to Tanjore as Resident, with or without a Council, was not warranted by the orders of the Company, nor necessary for the carrying of them into execution."

And the Court having considered of the said motion, and the question thereon being put by the ballot, it passed in the negative.

And then the Court agreed to postpone the consideration of the other propositions until to-morrow at 12 o'clock precisely.

At a Court of Directors, held on Tuesday the 22d of April, 1777.

THE Court taking into consideration the propositions submitted by the Chairman, which were postponed last Court,

It was moved, " That excluding Mr. George Stratton and Mr. Henry Brooke from their seats in Council at Madras, without a regular charge exhibited against them in writing, and allowing a reasonable time for the defence, and putting the question against them jointly, and thereby obtaining a majority in the said Council, was arbitrary and unconstitutional."

And

And the Court debating thereon, the following articles were read, viz.

Fort St. George standing orders of the 3d of February, 1719, and the 6th of December, 1721.

Fort St. George consultation, 22d of August, 1776, relative to the suspension of Messieurs Stratton and Brooke.

General order after the above consultation.

The Company's commission to Lord Pigot, appointing him President and Governor, and also appointing the rest of the Council at Fort St. George, dated the 11th of April, 1775.

The Company's commission to Lord Pigot, as Commander in Chief of the Fort and Garrison of Fort St. George and town of Madraspatnam, dated the 4th of April, 1775.

The Company's commission to Colonel James Stuart as Colonel of foot, dated the 15th of November, 1775.

Bengal consultation, 28th of October, 1765, relative to the suspension of Mr. Leycester.

And the question on the said motion being put by the ballot, it passed in the negative.

Resolved by the ballot, That the removal of Lord Pigot from his office of Governor and President of the Council at Madras, and arresting his person, were acts of violence, unconstitutional, and of the most dangerous tendency.

Resolved by the Ballot, That the suspension of Claud Russell, Alexander Dalrymple, John Maxwell Stone, and Richard Lathom, Esquires, was arbitrary and unconstitutional.

It was then moved, " That the conduct of Lord Pigot in accepting
" of presents from the Nabob of Arcot, as specified in his Lordship's
" letter to the Court of Directors dated the 26th September, 1776, ap-
" pears to this Court to have been a direct breach of the late Act of Par-
" liament of the 13th of his present Majesty."

And the Court entering into a debate thereon, the fourth paragraph of the letter from Lord Pigot to the Court of Directors, dated 26th September, 1776, was read.

It being then moved, " That the previous question on the said motion be put by the ballot, the same was put accordingly, and passed in the affirmative.

Then the main question being put by the ballot, it passed in the affirmative.

" All which matters your Court of Directors submit to the consideration of the General Court."

And the Court having taken the said report into consideration, the following questions were moved:

This Court highly disapproving of the removal of the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot from his office of Governor and President of the Council of Fort St. George at Madras, and of arresting his person; and agreeing in the resolution to restore him to his office, in order strongly to mark disapprobation of the measure; yet taking into their most serious consideration the distracted state of that Settlement, the disorders

disorders which have prevailed there, and the confusion which at present subsists in that Government, which may endanger the safety, peace, and welfare of the Settlement, and the prosperity of the Company's affairs, is of opinion, That it be recommended to the Court of Directors forthwith to recall the said George Lord Pigot, in order that his Lordship's conduct may be more effectually enquired into.

It appearing to this Court, that Claud Russell, John Maxwell Stone, Alexander Dalrymple, and Richard Lathom, Esquires, of the Council of Madras, have supported Lord Pigot in the powers contended for by his Lordship, Resolved, That it be recommended to the Court of Directors to recall the said Claud Russell, John Maxwell Stone, Alexander Dalrymple, and Richard Lathom, in order that their conduct respectively may be more effectually enquired into.

It appearing to this Court, that George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Esquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Knight, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires, of the Council at Madras, have acted highly improper in the imprisonment of the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, and the removal of his Lordship from his office of Governor and place of President of the Council of Madras, Resolved, That it be recommended to the Court of Directors to recall the said George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Esquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Knight, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires, in order that their conduct respectively may be more effectually enquired into.

And the Court having very maturely considered of the said questions, it was after a very long debate moved, and, on the question,

Resolved unanimously, That the debate on the questions this day moved and seconded, and as are herein above inserted, be adjourned 'till his day fortnight, and that the proceedings of the Court of Directors,

in consequence of the resolutions of the General Court of the 26th and 31st ultimo, and of the advices lately received from Fort St. George, and this day laid before the Court, together with the said three questions, be forthwith printed for the use of the Proprietors.

And then the Court adjourned accordingly.

It appearing to this Court, that Claud Russell, John Maxwell, James Alexander Dalrymple, and Richard Latham, Esquires, of the Council of Madras, have reported Lord Pigot in the powers committed for by his Lordship, Resolved, That it be recommended to the Court of Directors to recall the said Claud Russell, John Maxwell, James Alexander Dalrymple, and Richard Latham, in order that their conduct may be more effectually enquired into.

It appearing to this Court, that George Stanton, Henry Brooke, Esquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Knight, Charles Floyer, Archdale Parnis, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires, of the Council of Madras, have acted highly improper in the imprisonment of the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, and the removal of his Lordship from his office of Governor and place of President of the Council of Madras, Resolved, That it be recommended to the Court of Directors to recall the said George Stanton, Henry Brooke, Esquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Knight, Charles Floyer, Archdale Parnis, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires, in order that their conduct respectively may be more effectually enquired into.

And the Court having very much considered of the said questions it was after a very long debate moved, and on the question,

Resolved unanimously, That the debate on the questions this day moved and recorded, and as the hour is now advanced, be adjourned till his day fortnight, and that the proceedings of the Court of Directors, in

I am therefore under the necessity of submitting to your consideration some circumstances entitled to weight with the Directors and Proprietors, for disposing them to suspend such opinions or resolutions until my brother's conduct shall be fully and fairly investigated; and I beg I may be understood to state them with that view only.

In the first place, it is a certain fact, that the dissension and animosity between Lord Pigot and the majority of the Council at Madras took rise long before my brother arrived in India.—He did not arrive there 'till the month of May last, and I have letters in my possession from him, soon after his arrival, as well as letters from others, mentioning the distracted state in which he found matters there, on account of the disputes and dissensions between Lord Pigot and the Council.

The same letters mention, that my brother had hitherto abstained from taking part with either side in these disputes; and that it was his intention to avoid mixing in faction, and to apply himself to his own business in the military line. The advices received by the Company from India some months ago must have confirmed these facts, and have satisfied you, that the origin of the dissensions at Madras was long before my brother's arrival in that part of the world.

Secondly, I have particular occasion to know, that when my brother left this country it was his wish and intention to be on the best terms with Lord Pigot; and for this purpose he had obtained strong letters of recommendation from Lord Pigot's particular friends in this country. Admiral Pigot was, as I understood from my brother, very obliging on that occasion, in supplying him with letters to promote the good correspondence between Lord Pigot and him.

It must also be very evident to every person acquainted even with the general account that has been circulated of the transactions at Madras,

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that

that, so far as interest is concerned, it appeared to be Colonel's Stuart's interest to have remained on the best terms with Lord Pigot; and as his Lordship did upon two different occasions, in the months of July and August last, offer him the command in chief of all the forces in that country, he by declining these offers, and by obeying the orders of the majority of the Council, deprived himself of a situation and advantages much more considerable than any that could be bestowed on him by the party whose orders he obeyed; for the consequence of the part he has acted is, that he remains second in command, without a seat in Council, and without any advantages or emoluments comparable to those enjoyed by the Commander in Chief; whereas, if he had espoused Lord Pigot's interest, the immediate command in chief of the army devolved upon him, with a seat in Council, and all the privileges and advantages belonging to the first military situation. His senior officer, Sir Robert Fletcher, then Commander in Chief, being at that time under an arrest to be tried by a Court Martial, there was little chance of Colonel Stuart's not enjoying the command of the army during Lord Pigot's government.

From these circumstances it seems probable, that in the part my brother has acted he has not been guided by self-interest; there may have been an error of judgment in the opinion formed by him of Lord Pigot's conduct, but there is great reason to presume, that the alteration from his original dispositions with regard to his Lordship, and the part he chose of obeying the orders of the majority of the Council, arose not from interested views, but from an opinion that Lord Pigot was acting illegally, and that the majority of the Council was the legal Government, which he was bound to obey.

Here I beg leave to be understood, that it is by no means my intention to assert either that Lord Pigot had acted illegally, or that the legal Government was vested in the majority of the Council; I only mean to say,

say, that it seems to me probable my brother proceeded on these ideas; but whether they were well or ill founded I do not pretend to judge.

Thirdly, The strong and marked approbation of the Governor-General and Supreme Council in Bengal, seems of itself sufficient to prevent any opinions or resolutions unfavourable to Colonel Stuart, at least until matters are further examined.

In the letter of 15th September from General Clavering to Colonel Stuart, there is not only an approbation of his conduct, but in terms the most flattering to him the General gives him applause for the honour of conducting *so difficult and dangerous a business*, and for the *spirit and magnanimity* with which he had executed it.

When these distinguished marks of approbation are bestowed by General Clavering, whose sense of honour, and whose sentiments of propriety and delicacy of conduct as an officer and a gentleman, are so well known and established, it is but fair and reasonable to presume, until the contrary is proved, that Colonel Stuart's conduct had not only appeared to the Supreme Council at Bengal right and proper in itself, but that in the manner of carrying the order of the Council into execution, and in the mode of arresting Lord's Pigot's person, there had been nothing unhandsome, improper, or unsuitable to the character of a gentleman and an officer.

It appears from General Clavering's letter of the 15th, and from Governor Hastings of the 18th September, that both of them gave great credit to Colonel Stuart for the mode in which Lord Pigot's arrest had been accomplished—"Without bloodshed, without tumult, and without the violation of one legal form." These are the words of Governor Hastings' letter to Mr. Stratton, wherein he talks with a degree of admiration of this as a thing almost without example; and from General Clavering's letter it appears, that he considered a war in
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the Carnatic as inevitable, if this last decisive step had not been taken. He says to Colonel Stuart, "*Whatever advantages therefore arise from the preservation of so faithful an ally (the Nabob of Arcot) or to the Company's commerce, by the peace of the Carnatic being preserved, the Company are indebted chiefly to you for them.*"

Such are the expressions made use of by General Clavering in his letter to my brother, and by Governor Hastings in his letter to Mr. Stratton, and such the light in which this matter presented itself to the Supreme Council at Bengal after hearing the assertions of both parties.

It is not with a view to acquire any positive opinion at present in favour of my brother's conduct, that I have selected from a number of other circumstances which might have been stated in his favour, those which are now submitted to your consideration, but merely to make use of them as reasons for a suspension of any unfavourable judgment or proceedings to his prejudice, until the matter is more fully examined.

I do not wish to enter at all into the merits of the question between Lord Pigot and his Council, nor to assert or insinuate any thing to his Lordship's prejudice. It is well known that it was my earnest recommendation to my brother, at leaving this country, to cultivate a good understanding with his Lordship, whom I had always been accustomed to consider as a respectable man, to whom the India Company had been under great obligations at a particular period during the last war.

I took occasion also to write to my brother in the strongest terms in the month of January, 1776, requesting and insisting with him, that he should confine himself entirely to his own business and profession in the military line, and that he should avoid all interference in the

factions or political intrigues which I understood too often took place in our Settlements in India. This was recommended to him in such a manner, that I have reason to be confident it would have weight with him; and as I find by his letter of 30th September now before me, that he had received mine of January before the late violent disturbances at Madras, it gives me some degree of hope, that the part he took in the business upon the 23d and 24th August was not the result of any preceding spirit of faction or intrigue, but a sudden resolution taken in consequence of his being reduced to the disagreeable alternative, of either disobeying the orders of Lord Pigot, or those of the majority of the Council.

The paragraph in my brother's letter of 30th September, on the above subject, is in these words:

" I feel in my own breast the greatest inward satisfaction, arising from a cool reflection on what is past; and am particularly happy, that upon an attentive perusal of your long letter, I do not find I can charge myself with a breach of those rules which your friendship prescribes; since I am convinced that, by not interfering in politics, you could not mean, that as a military man I was to obey unlawful authority instead of supporting Government."

The conclusion of his letter to me, which is a very long one, and at your command whenever you choose to peruse it, is in these words:

" The candid part of the world will justify me from the imputation of every selfish and interested view, when it is known, that acting upon constitutional principles, I have at two different times refused the command of the army offered to me by Lord Pigot; and upon this occasion I have exerted myself in defence of the rights of the Company at the hazard of my life. Were it possible for me ever to feel the impression of such motives, it may be reasonably asked, What advantages can possibly be derived to me from my present con-

" *due? or what is there that this or any other Government can give me, that*
 " *I might not have had from Lord Pigot? My conduct in this respect must*
 " *remain an incontestable proof to every impartial person of my having acted*
 " *from conscience, and from conviction of the rectitude of the cause in which*
 " *I was engaged.*

" *Before I take my leave of you, my dear brother, I shall beg leave to re-*
 " *peat, what I have already declared to my friend General Clavering, that as*
 " *I hope for mercy, I never had any promise, neither am I in possession or ex-*
 " *pectation of any private benefit whatever resulting from the change now*
 " *brought about in this Government.*"

If you will allow me to shew you the whole of my brother's dis-
 patches upon this occasion, you will perceive, that so far from having
 any idea of the possibility of prejudices arising against him in this coun-
 try on account of what he had done, he seems to be under the influ-
 ence of the strongest conviction, that he had done a most meritorious
 service to the East-India Company and to the country in general, by
 preserving peace in the Carnatic, by establishing what appeared to
 him to be the legal Government, and accomplishing all this without
 bloodshed or tumult.

So much is he under the influence of that conviction, that in the last
 letter received from him, dated 10th October, he desires me, on the foot-
 ing of the services he has upon this occasion rendered to the India
 Company, and to the British Empire in India, to apply to the Company
 for the rank to him of Brigadier-General in India by brevet; and further
 suggests, that as he had been 14 years a Lieutenant-Colonel in the King's
 service, and had never yet received any mark of favour for the part he
 acted in the successful storming of the Moro Fort at the Havannah, that
 he thinks this recent service in India should, with his former services
 during last war, obtain to him the rank of Colonel in the King's army.

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By thus laying before you the state of Colonel Stuart's mind upon this occasion, as painted in his private letters to a brother, it will readily occur to you, what a severe disappointment and mortification it will be to him, if, instead of those publick marks of approbation, which his imagination had already almost realized to him, he should find, that his character and conduct upon this occasion have been attacked in the most violent manner, that the circumstances of his behaviour have been painted in colours the most likely to excite prejudices, and even indignation against him, before any account had arrived here from himself, and before there was an opportunity of informing the Public of the true state of facts, and that, upon no other authority than a letter from Alexandria, from a gentleman known to have taken a very warm part in these disputes, and to be the declared enemy of Colonel Stuart.

I do not mean by this to impute any blame to Admiral Pigot, or the other friends of Lord Pigot in this country, for endeavouring to interest the Proprietors and the Publick strongly in his Lordship's favour; it was natural for them, believing what they had heard, and thinking as they did of the proceedings at Madras, to be inflamed with zeal for his Lordship, and with indignation against those who had any share in the events which had happened to him; and, in that temper, it was natural for them to avail themselves of what may be called the *honest prejudices* of the Publick; for these prejudices, instilled by the letter from Alexandria, were founded on compassion for a man considered as injured, and indignation at those whom the Publick then conceived to have acted towards him both harshly and unjustly.

But Lord Pigot's friends must think it equally natural on my part, to endeavour to prevent these prejudices from extending their influence too far in this business.

In the present stage of these Indian disputes, before the facts have been properly ascertained, it is not my wish, nor my intention, to make

any assertions, favourable or unfavourable either to Lord Pigot's or to my brother's cause; but I do most sincerely wish, that there may be a full, fair, and impartial examination into the conduct of all the persons at Madras, who have been concerned in the late important transactions there, and that this may be done in the most speedy manner, and in that manner which is most likely to prove effectual for bringing the truth to light, and for making every actor appear to the Publick in his proper colours.

As I cannot doubt, that a measure so requisite for the honour and interest, not only of individuals, but of the India Company, and of the British Nation in general, will be adopted; the object of my present request is no more, than that, in the interval which precedes the enquiry, the Directors and Proprietors of the India Company may be pleased to suspend their opinion of Colonel Stuart's conduct; and that they may also be pleased to abstain, during that interval, from any resolutions, which, by inferring an immediate disapprobation of his conduct, may be essentially prejudicial to him.

You know, Sir, that when my brother went to India, he was appointed second in command, to succeed to the command in chief upon any vacancy by the death, resignation, or removal of Sir Robert Fletcher, the Commander in Chief.

I have been told, that on the 4th of April, before my arrival in London, and very recently after the arrival of the first advices about these disturbances at Madras, a message was sent by the Directors to Lieutenant-Colonel Munro, desiring him to accept of the command in chief at Madras; and that it has even been in agitation to send out another officer second in command there. These steps, if true, have been carried on with so much expedition, and with so little notice to any person concerned on the part of the first and second in command upon the Coast of Coromandel, that I must be excused for thinking it a hard measure
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on the two gentlemen who now fill these stations: it is in effect proceeding to judgment and condemnation of them, even before any notice given to themselves or to their friends to prepare for their defence.

If there is to be a certain number of Commissioners sent to India to enquire into the late disorders at Madras, and to restore peace and good government in that country, I do not deny that it is reasonable and equitable; that during such enquiry the principal actors on all sides, whether in the civil or military service of the Company, should be suspended from their functions, and that others should be appointed to occupy their places, until, by the result of the enquiry, it shall appear whether the persons thus suspended had been faithful or unfaithful servants to the interests of the Company; when such enquiry is completed, let the subsequent fate of every man thus tried, be regulated by his merit or demerit in the transactions which gave rise to the enquiry.

But surely it cannot be your intention, Sir, nor that of the other gentlemen in the Direction of the East-India Company's affairs, to adopt a mode of proceeding in this particular case, which shall have the effect to make disapprobation and punishment precede enquiry.

This is so repugnant to every principle or rule of proceeding hitherto observed, either by the India Company, or by any society of men acquainted with the blessings of the British Constitution, that I cannot persuade myself that there is any serious intention of adopting it.

But it will be adopting it effectually, if any officers are to be sent to Madras, with Commissions to supersede Sir Robert Fletcher and Colonel-Stuart, and that for an indefinite period of time.

That a proper officer should be appointed to take the command of the army during the enquiry into the conduct of Sir Robert Fletcher

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and Colonel Stuart, is a measure which cannot with propriety be objected against ; but it is submitted, that the commission to such officer should be temporary, to subsist only 'till the enquiry into the conduct of the present first and second in command at Madras shall be completed ; or at least, that the commission to be granted to any officer now to be sent to Madras, should not be prejudicial either to Sir Robert Fletcher or to Colonel Stuart, in the event of the proposed enquiry terminating in a manner honourable for them.

It must be admitted on all hands, that it is at least a *possible case* that Colonel Stuart, in the part he has acted, in obedience to the orders of the majority of the Council, may, instead of deserving censure or supercession, have actually done what was proper and meritorious on his part.

It is also at least a *possible case*, that if he has done wrong, or acted irregularly in obeying the orders of the majority of Council, he has been guilty only of an error in judgment, and that his conduct may appear to have been guided by the best intentions for the interest of the Company.

Upon these suppositions, I beg leave to submit it to your consideration, and to that of the other gentlemen in the Direction of the Company's affairs, to whom I beg this letter may be communicated as soon as possible, whether it would not be the source of much regret and uneasiness hereafter to yourselves, if you should find, that by a sudden resolution, founded on the first reports, your conduct to an officer, who in the event shall be found to have deserved well of the Company, had been such, that it was no longer in your power to redress the material injury that had been done to him, both in point of situation and character.

You

You will observe, Sir, that in the whole course of this letter, I have not pretended either to approve of my brother's conduct, or to advance any thing against that of his opponents ; I have contended for nothing else but a fair and impartial enquiry, and a suspense of decisive judgment until such enquiry is completed.

In contending for this equitable conduct, I have not availed myself of the intelligence recently received from Madras, by a very reputable and esteemed servant of the Company, Colonel Capper, who has brought letters and accounts containing such a favourable representation of Colonel Stuart's conduct, and bestowing such encomiums upon it, as might perhaps have entitled me to state it as something stronger than a *mere possibility*, that his conduct, upon enquiry, may be found to have been meritorious.

To enter into the particulars of the accounts thus received by Colonel Capper, would be engaging further in this contest than I have any inclination to do at present, and further than I can at any rate permit myself to do, until I am possessed of full information on both sides of the question.

It is sufficient for the only purpose I have in view, that of an impartial enquiry, and 'till that happens, a suspense of judgment, that there exists a *probability*, or even a *possibility*, of Colonel Stuart's having acted such a part as entitles him to approbation, or even such a part as does not render him obnoxious to censure and punishment.

This *probability*, or, if that is disputed, this *possibility*, which no man can deny to exist, entitles me, without presumption, to expect from the East-India Company that measure of justice to my brother, which the laws and constitution of this country never refuse, even to the most abandoned wretches, when accused of the most enormous crimes, that they shall not be punished, 'till they are tried and heard in their defence.

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Let my brother stand or fall by a fair trial and investigation of his conduct; but I trust with confidence in the justice and equity of the Honourable Company, that no such permanent and prejudicial measure will be adopted at present, as may, by virtually depriving him of his situation and prospects in the service, inflict a very severe punishment and censure upon Colonel Stuart untried and unheard in his own defence.

I have the honour to be,

With great regard,

Sir,

Your most obedient

and most humble servant,

Berkley Square,
14th April, 1777.

ANDW. STUART.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel James Capper to the Honourable the Court of Directors, &c.

Honourable Sirs,

AS I was present during the late unhappy disputes at Madras, although not personally concerned in them, and having also been charged with the dispatches which conveyed to your Honourable Court authentic intelligence of the late change of government there, I flatter myself you will pardon me for taking the liberty to make some *remarks* on Mr. Dalrymple's letter from Alexandria, which I have perused in the India-House, and am very sorry to observe, that it is calculated not to inform, but to mislead those who may give too much credit to it.

I have not yet obtained a copy of that letter, and therefore cannot reply to it so particularly as I could wish; but some parts of it are so injurious to the characters of my particular friends, that in justice to them, and consistently with my duty to you, I can no longer delay giving a faithful

account of the circumstances attending the displacing Lord Pigot, as they appeared to me and every other unprejudiced person on the Coast.

Mr. Dalrymple says, that the removal of Lord Pigot was effected by the majority, who acted under the influence of the Nabob, and had been concerted long before it took place. The minutes of consultation from the 20th to the 23d of August clearly refute this assertion. The cause of his Lordship's arrest originated in himself; for if he had not attempted illegally to suspend seven members of the Council, composing a majority, he would not have been removed from the chair.

The resolution for arresting his Lordship did not take place until the 23d August in the evening, at a meeting of the majority of the Council. In the morning of that day, they agreed to write to the Supreme Council of Bengal, and request " Their assistance and support," and in the mean time to protest against the proceedings of Lord Pigot and his party, not with an intention to cause any disturbance in the settlement, but merely to acquit themselves of all responsibility as members of the Council, from which they were then violently excluded. I cannot more clearly shew the moderation of the majority of the Council, in forbearing to assert their rights to the legal authority of government, when Lord Pigot attempted to suspend Messieurs Stratton and Brooke, than by quoting in this place part of a letter written by the Governor-General and Council of Bengal to Mr. Stratton, &c. dated the 10th September.

" After so recent an example of the disposition of your late President, as appeared in his conduct towards the Nabob, and while our decision of the appeal that was made to us by the Nabob on that occasion was yet depending, we could not be but greatly alarmed for the peace of the Carnatic, when we heard of the unexampled measures by which Lord Pigot had determined to usurp the power of your government, by attempting to procure a majority in the Council by violence, in order to sanctify his measures. Thus deprived of the

“ aid on which we had depended, from the integrity of a large majority,
 “ in the members of your late Council, who had stedfastly opposed the
 “ hostile measures adopted by his Lordship against the Nabob, what
 “ hope could we any longer entertain, that our orders on these points,
 “ which were contained in our letter of the 7th of August, would not
 “ be openly disobeyed, or covertly eluded, when the execution of them
 “ was left to the discretion of that power they were meant to control.”

If the Governor-General and Supreme Council were surprized at Lord Pigot's conduct, in attempting violently to suspend two members of the Council, they must have been greatly alarmed at his subsequent behaviour. When the protest was carried by the Notary Publick to his Lordship, and several copies of it had been distributed amongst the Company's servants, both civil and military, Lord Pigot immediately summoned his party, who unanimously agreed to suspend the other members of the Council, and to put Sir Robert Fletcher under arrest, “ for exciting sedition amongst the troops.” This measure is by many thought of itself sufficient to justify the gentlemen of the majority of the Council for arresting the person of Lord Pigot, as no other means were left of saving the life of the Commander in Chief, who was threatened with death for acting according to his opinion as a member of the Board. But the majority were still more induced to assume the reins of government, to prevent the uncertainty in which the servants, both civil and military, would be left under a doubtful authority, to avoid the great confusion and danger which might arise from it in the army, and above all, to protect the honour and alliance of the Nabob of Arcot, who knew that Lord Pigot and his party had voted his being removed from the settlement, who was apprehensive of being disgracefully driven from Madras, and therefore was prepared to fly to some corner of the Carnatic, or perhaps terrified at the idea of such a violation of the rights, which are inherent even in the poorest British subject, he might have sought that asylum with the French at Pondicherry, which

an English Governor wished to refuse him in a part of his own dominions, within the Company's power.

These several alarming considerations, independently of their own rights as a majority of the Council, induced them to deviate from the line they had adopted of waiting the determination of the Supreme Council, and to avail themselves of the power they had in their hands of seizing Lord Pigot, which had they delayed but for twenty-four hours, their forbearance would infallibly have produced violent commotions in the Settlement, and most probably have given rise to a war with the French, who certainly would not have neglected to avail themselves of such a favourable opportunity, knowing, as they do from experience, how much their dissensions facilitated the English conquest of Pondicherry.

Mr. Dalrymple has not contented himself with censuring the measure of suspending Lord Pigot, but also very artfully endeavoured to interest the publick in favour of his cause, by a shameful misrepresentation of Colonel Stuart's conduct. The intemperate language in which he has related the account of Lord Pigot's arrest, must in a great measure lessen the credibility of that relation; and those who are acquainted with Colonel Stuart's character as a soldier and a man, are convinced, without even hearing his defence, that he is incapable of the brutality and treachery attributed to him by Mr. Dalrymple.

With your permission, Gentlemen, I will inform you of the behaviour of the Colonel on that occasion, as he openly and uncontradictedly related it himself, and as it was confirmed to me by many other respectable persons in your service at Madras.

I must beg leave to premise, that Lord Pigot in the month of July had put Sir Robert Fletcher under arrest, and offered the command of the army to Colonel Stuart. The Colonel represented to his Lordship,
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that it was not in his power as President, acting independently of his Council, to put the Commander in Chief under an arrest; and to prevent any bad consequences from disputes arising between the Governor and Commander in Chief, he offered to stand mediator between them. This voluntary interposition on the part of Colonel Stuart, was much to his credit and serves as an incontestible proof of his disinterestedness and desire of preventing dissensions. He fortunately succeeded in his mediation, and two members of the Council were sent by Lord Pigot from the Board to apologize to Sir Robert, and to request his attendance in Council.

When Lord Pigot, on the 23d of August, again offered the command of the army to Colonel Stuart, the Colonel reminded him of what had happened before, adding, that his situation was particularly delicate; for if he blindly accepted of his Lordship's offer, and that Sir Robert Fletcher was illegally put under arrest a second time, he became obnoxious to military law for assuming the command of the army; he therefore hoped his Lordship would please to allow him the perusal of the minutes of consultation of the 3 or 4 preceding days, and then he would give him an answer. His Lordship admitted the propriety of Colonel Stuart's request, but told him he would talk with him further on the subject another time.

On the 24th, in the morning, in consequence of Lord Pigot's silence, Colonel Stuart wrote him the following letter :

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot.

Fort St. George, August 24th, 1776, Saturday, 7 o'clock in the Morning.

MY LORD,

" AS I am very imperfectly informed of the steps which have led to
" the honour conferred on me yesterday, and not *thinking myself entitled*

" to

“ *to a seat in the Council, as matters are at present circumstanced ; I hope*
 “ *it will be agreeable to your Lordship, to allow me this day to peruse*
 “ *the consultations or other papers passed in Council on these unhappy*
 “ *differences. I doubt not but your Lordship will find this request*
 “ *reasonable, because the practice of this service gives such information*
 “ *to the person commanding the troops from his seat in Council. I*
 “ *do not desire to put your Lordship to the trouble of ordering copies*
 “ *for my use ; the Secretary need only to point out to me what is pro-*
 “ *per for my information, so as to do my duty to my Honourable Em-*
 “ *ployers, according to my oath of fidelity for the public service, and*
 “ *with honour to myself. I therefore trust your Lordship will be plea-*
 “ *fed to agree to this request before I am called upon to execute any publick*
 “ *act by authority. I have the honour to be, &c. &c.*

“ (Signed) J. STUART.”

Colonel Stuart waited at home until one o'clock that day, in expectation of being called into Council, and then went to the Government-House, to know Lord Pigot's determination; his Lordship told him it was not then a proper time to speak about business, and desired he would sit down to dinner. When they rose from table, Colonel Stuart renewed his request; Lord Pigot asked him, if he meant to bargain for the command of the army? The Colonel answered in the negative. His Lordship then said, “ Come in the evening to the Gardens, and “ we will settle this point before supper.” Colonel Stuart found, that Lord Pigot wished only to procrastinate his answer, in expectation that he (Colonel Stuart) would give out some order as Commander in Chief, by which means he should be ensnared, right or wrong, into the espousal of his Lordship's cause; he therefore hesitated no longer what part to act, but, in consequence of an order received from the majority, he determined, from that instant, to assist them in attempting to get possession of the Fort, and of the Company's records.

Averse even to apparent duplicity, he was obliged to act with caution; for if Lord Pigot had discovered his intentions, many people, who now censure his (Colonel Stuart's) conduct, might have had cause to lament, at this time, the death of some relation or friend, and then they would have condemned him as a madman, for executing, with open violence, what might have been equally affected with address.

The appointment Lord Pigot had given Colonel Stuart to meet at the Gardens, enabled him to form a plan for seizing his Lordship without any confusion. Lieutenant-Colonel Edingtoun and Captain Lyfaught were stationed in the road with a carriage, and ordered to stop Lord Pigot in his way to the Gardens. Colonel Stuart also accepted an offer made to him by Lord Pigot of accompanying him in the same carriage, that he might prevent his Lordship, when he saw the Seapoys advancing towards him, from attempting to drive past the party, which infallibly must have produced resistance, force, and perhaps bloodshed.

When Colonel Edingtoun stopt the carriage, Colonel Stuart, instead of the rude and brutal speech put into his mouth by Mr. Dalrymple, apologized to his Lordship in the following words: "I am extremely concerned to be employed in this disagreeable business, and much more so to have recourse to any thing like a stratagem; however, I thought this mode preferable to exposing your Lordship's person, and the lives of your friends, to the risk of a public attack; especially as I flatter myself my character as an officer is sufficiently known, to secure me from the suspicion of acting thus from an apprehension of my own safety; Captain Lyfaught will convey your Lordship to the Mount, where Major Horne will shew you every respect that you can possibly receive in your present situation."

Colonel Stuart twice refused the command of the army when earnestly pressed to accept of it, he therefore cannot reasonably be suspected

suspected of having been actuated by self-interest; his distinguished courage exempts him from the suspicion of fear in privately arresting Lord Pigot, and his well-known good sense acquits him from any accusation of unnecessary rudeness, where civility would be equally effectual.

A slight revision of these facts, most of which stand on the Honourable Company's records, I am in hopes will justify Colonel Stuart's conduct. If he had disobeyed the majority, and attached himself to Lord Pigot's party, especially after his superior officer, Sir Robert Fletcher, the Commander in Chief, had declared and acted in favour of the majority of the Council, and in opposition to Lord Pigot's pretensions, a civil war in the settlement was inevitable; and if the majority had prevailed, which most probably would have happened, from a general established opinion both among the civil and military servants, that the powers of government were vested in the majority, and not to be destroyed by the obstinacy of a President, Colonel Stuart must in that case have fallen the first sacrifice; therefore this gentleman was either to support the generally admitted legal government, and to prevent any confusion and bloodshed, or to act contrary to his own opinion, be the means of exciting a civil war in the settlement, and most probably suffer an ignominious death.

It is not for me to determine how far he may have erred in supporting the majority of the Council against Lord Pigot; but I am persuaded that he acted from a real opinion that his duty, and the interest of the Company required him to support that party. When the storm is blown over, that has been raised against them by the misrepresentations of his adversaries, I make no doubt but justice will take place, and then he will be as much commended as he has hitherto been condemned.

I will close my present remarks upon Mr. Dalrymple's letter, by explaining to your Honours, what he calls bribing the army. By the
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the book of military regulations on the Coast of Coromandel, all Europeans, both officers and soldiers were allowed batta, or travelling expenses at the rate of 25 miles per day. It is obvious to every person acquainted with the climate, that this regulation must either be ineffectual or very destructive to the army; for an European, especially one newly arrived in the country, cannot march at that rate without endangering his health; from a principle of humanity therefore as well in regard to economy, in the month of July, as Commissary-General, I proposed at a Committee of Accounts, that Cadets, Non-commissioned Officers, and private men, should be allowed batta at the rate of 12 miles per day. In the hurry of business at the Board, during the months of July and August, the proposal lay on the table, but when Lord Pigot was suspended, and the hurry abated, a Member of the Board moved for its being taken into consideration, and my proposal was agreed to; not to bribe the army to support the cause of the majority, but to save the East-India Company at least £.5000 per annum, in their recruiting expenses and hospital charges, and also to prevent the destruction of the most valuable part of the Company's troops.

I hope, Gentlemen, you will forgive me for also taking notice of this address of a letter which a Mr. Smith, of Madras, took upon him to write you on the political affairs of your Presidency, which he is neither concerned in nor understands. Mr. Smith is not Mayor of Madras, he is only one of the Aldermen and a free merchant in the place; in neither of these capacities could it become his duty to trouble you on these subjects. But supposing him really Mayor, and that he had addressed you in the character that he improperly assumes, his advice ought undoubtedly to have been confined to the mere fact of the arrest of Lord Pigot, the application to the Court for a Writ of Habeas Corpus and the Court's refusal. Does it become a Judge to take a decided part? What weight can his testimony carry, who sets out by declaring his opinion before he states the facts? and with
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affected compassion insinuates the basest slanders against the parties concerned? The information, accompanied with clumsy wit, which he pretends to give respecting me, I think too insignificant to demand my attention. His falsehoods and misrepresentations through a course of years to his correspondents in Europe, are as notorious as his illicit trade to the French Islands, and both are equally reprobated by every honest man.

I am, Honourable Sirs,

Your most obedient and faithful servant,

Jermyn Street,
19th April, 1777.

JAMES CAPPER.

Letter from Edward Cotsford, Esquire,

To the Honourable the Court of Directors of the English East-India Company.

GENTLEMEN,

IN consequence of the resolution you have lately come to, I may probably be called upon by the Honourable Court to proceed to my station at Fort St. George at a very short notice.

It is a duty I owe to myself, and well becoming an honest man, to examine now the ground I am to stand upon to avoid encountering difficulties beyond my strength hereafter. This, joined to my duty to the Company, as being their immediate servant and a member of the Council at Madras, I consider as authorizing, and even obliging me to take this matter up in a more particular manner than I might be justified in doing if not personally concerned.

There is but little doubt, I think, that the authority of your government is removed from your President and Council, and resides in the

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Commander

Commander of your forces, and is a despotism of the worst kind; as having no qualifying ingredients to soften and restrain it, which States in their natures despotic have. It may therefore be called a lawless power.

The source of this extraordinary event lies deeper than the trivial circumstance of whether this or that man should be sent to reside at Tanjore; that was but little more than a spark falling upon matter already so inflammable, that nothing but the application was necessary for setting it in a blaze.

The power of the Nabob, in consequence of the reduction of his enemies, and through his alliance with the crown of Great Britain, as set forth in the treaty of Paris, and his pursuing an interest in many important points diametrically opposite to that of the Company, added to the taking from your Governor a most essential part of his executive authority, and vesting it in your *military* Commander in Chief, as you term him, appear to me to be the real causes of this alarming revolution.

There was a time when the interest of the Nabob and the India Company was one; and I think it will be granted, that the obligations they owe each other from their earliest connection to the present period, have been mutual and equal; but the state of things is so much altered, that the Nabob now overlooks his former supporters, and the Company fear the man, who was at once the instrument of their prosperity, and the object of their pity.

A Governor, the most virtuous and upright, and supported with all the power you can legally give him, would find it difficult to do the Company's business effectually with so great a power counteracting him; but with his authority so much diminished, he should govern a
community

community of men like angels, or be something more than man himself to surmount a difficulty almost insuperable.

The Governor-General and Council in Bengal have approved in very strong terms of the violent act committed upon the person of your Governor, and have founded their judgment chiefly upon his having infringed the treaty of Paris, by wounding the independent rights of the Nabob of the Carnatic.

There are two questions, the answers to which will clear this subject of much of its ambiguity: Is the Nabob, *bona fide*, an independent Prince? Has your President in his conduct fulfilled your orders, and attended to the honour and advantage of the India Company? The first question I am sure you can yourselves resolve without my assistance; and the other it is possible (to some) may require a further elucidation than the documents at present in your possession can give.

I must however take leave to observe, that if your Government at Bengal shew a disposition to punish in so violent and illegal a manner what it considers as a breach of the treaty of Paris, your officers may suppose they will be justified in giving up all fortresses situate out of the Company's jaghire, at the requisition of the Nabob; and to judge from the present appearance of things, I think the keeping possession must depend greatly upon the virtue and integrity of those who have charge of them.

The arguments for supporting the Nabob's independence would serve well as an ostensible colour to a conduct it might be necessary to observe with respect to an enemy, but to use them only for weakening your own establishment and your influence with the Country Powers is to me unaccountable. I find no difficulty in conceiving that many things may be done by your Governor and Council, highly honourable to themselves and beneficial to the Company, which may nevertheless operate

so as in some degree to affect the Nabob's independence; and if the good they can do on one side is liable to be considered in the same degree as faulty and reprehensible towards the other by their constituents, I see no path left for a man of honour and integrity to go in.

As I wish the Company's prosperity most sincerely, I should be glad to see such resolutions adopted as would effectually re-establish the constitutional power of your Governor. This only can afford a reasonable assurance to the gentlemen of your Council, that they are safe in their persons and reputation, and may give their opinions freely and without fear in all matters deliberated at the Council Board.

Being myself in a situation liable to experience the good or ill effect of what you may now determine, what I have said above I humbly offer as a remonstrance against the power unconstitutionally exercised by those holding the administration of your affairs at Madras, and the evils of which I cannot think, in your resolutions recently made publick, you have so fully provided against, as the great importance of the case requires.

I shall now propose four points to your consideration, the execution of which might greatly forward the re-establishment of your affairs on the coast of Coromandel.

First, The Nabob should be prevailed upon to reside more within the centre of his dominions, by which (independent of the advantages that would follow to the Company) he might be enabled to give more dispatch to the internal management of his own government.

As the power of the Nabob is now become a real inconvenience, and you are to encounter it in the best way you are able, I think your Governor enters the lists against him upon very unequal terms. He, a despotic Prince, having in hands the riches and whole power of his country,

country, your authority only delegated, and vested in a Governor and his Council, with whom, separately, the Nabob may descend to private conferences, for the advancement of his own purposes, and when pretending to be the best support of your government, observing a conduct, possibly very reprehensible, were he amenable to our laws; Gaining early and constant information of what passes at your Councils, and interfering in your political conduct—Purchasing all the houses which are offered to sale, by which your servants may (in some degree through necessity) be under an obligation to him for houses to live in—Borrowing money at exorbitant interest, and by that means at once involving the fortunes of your servants, and indirectly purchasing their attention to his interest, in order to secure their property—Introducing excessive luxury into your settlement, which may have forwarded the late revolution, as having a tendency to destroy order and subordination—Preventing the course of justice, as persons guilty of crimes may, by taking the Nabob's protection, to be secured from punishment.

These are some of the bad consequences attending the Nabob's residence so near the seat of your Government, and it does not appear to me that these are sufficient reasons for his remaining there to counterbalance them.

Second. *The Nabob ought not to rent the Jaghire, it increasing his influence in the country, and proportionably lessening your own.* It has been urged (though I think the fact may be doubted) that the rent he pays exceeds the revenue he draws from the country; but, admitting it to be so, not being subject to your control, he may possibly oppress the country, which a person subject to your jurisdiction could not do with impunity; so that if you receive a little more money, it may be at the expense of the people's happiness and your own future security. Another very bad effect is, that it assists greatly in making the Nabob your treasurer, which is certainly very impolitick.

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Third.

Third. The President of your Council *should possess his military authority, as he held it before your regulations to Bengal on that head, in your letter of March 29th, 1774. He should likewise have the privilege of convening and adjourning the Council, and putting all questions at the Board.*

It does not follow that the Governor, by being the Commander in Chief, can dispose of the army at his pleasure; for residing constantly in Madras, as being at the head of the civil authority, the immediate charge of the soldiery will be in the hands of another. A rivalry might subsist between the officer commanding and the Governor, but that would rather prevent the latter from acquiring an undue influence in the army, than operate to the Company's detriment. If your Governor had been the express Commander in Chief, and there had been no room for doubting his military authority, an officer would hardly have dared to seize his person.

It is unnecessary to say that the Commander in Chief, under the President, shall have such and such powers, his situation naturally gives him all the power he ought to have; and when in the field at the head of the troops, his opinion must in general be assented to by the Board; or indeed, more properly speaking, cannot be controverted: except he should observe a conduct, either through weakness or design, manifestly tending to the detriment of the Company's affairs.

We learn from history and the experience of former times, that however free a state may be, the power in its distant settlements and provinces must in a greater degree reside in one man, otherwise he might not be able to carry such orders into execution as the publick good might make necessary. And as distant possessions cannot be maintained (at least in countries subject to a despotic government) without a standing military force, the great business is to draw all the advantages to the State from that force, without suffering it to control the laws, and endanger the publick

publick liberty. Ancient Rome invested her Governors of provinces with the civil, military, and judicial authority ; and your Governor at Madras, until 1774, was President of the Council, Commander in Chief of the forces, and Chief Justice in the Civil Court. Some temporary oppressions to individuals might have been the consequence, which an appeal to the laws of the kingdom will redress, but I have never heard that your establishment has been in the least danger from it. If no appeal lay from this government to a superior power, I admit it would be truly despotic, but it appears to me, that the strength residing in your Governor, is the best and only security to possessions at so great a distance.

Fourth. *It is highly necessary, that no servant of the Company have any intercourse with the Nabob, but with the privacy or through the medium of the President.* This is I know conformable to the orders of the Company, but I understand they have been lately voted not to be necessary by your servants at Madras.

It may perhaps seem to some, that granting too great a power to a Governor may be dispensed with ; for my part, being no friend to any thing arbitrary, I shall readily allow it, if any thing more efficacious for the public security can be pointed out ; but if not, your dependance must be upon the goodness of your choice of the person executing that great authority, who if he betrays his country, by wantonly or wickedly abandoning your interest, should lose all that he can lose on earth ; and if your powers fall short for inflicting a punishment adequate to the crime, you should seek redress from the legislature, as you have already done on the subject of your Bengal affairs.

If the power of your Governor will bear dimution, it would perhaps be more adviseable to take from him that which he exercises as Chief Justice, in which there is less danger, and is more suitable to the spirit of our constitution, than the depriving him of his military powers.

Much more might be said on this important subject and I hope and doubt not it will be fully discussed at the approaching General Court.

I am,

Gentlemen,

with the greatest respect,

your very devoted,

and obedient servant,

New Bond-Street,

April 20th, 1777.

EDWARD COTSFORD.

Extracts of Proceedings of the Governor and Council at Fort St. George, in their Publick and Revenue Departments; containing Debates on the propriety of appointing a Chief and Council at Tanjore, and other Subjects on which the Majority have differed in opinion from the President and Minority of the said Council.

Extract of Fort St. George General Consultations, 28th June, 1776.

THE Right Honourable the President informs the Board, that when he was at Tanjore, the Rajah took frequent occasions of expressing his grateful sense of the Company's generosity towards him, and appeared sincerely desirous of strengthening his connections with them by every means in his power. Amongst other things he mentioned, that it would be very agreeable to him, if the Company would send proper persons to attempt an investment in his country, where they might be sure of meeting with every support and assistance that could be received from his authority.

The President having since reflected upon the Rajah's proposal, is of opinion, that the Company will derive advantage by accepting it, as it will give them an opportunity of extending their investment for Europe, and will afford the most eligible means of conveying to this Settlement, some part at least of the surplus which may arise out of the four Lacks of

of Pagodas, to be paid annually by the Rajah, after defraying the expenses of the troops to be maintained in his country.

The President further observes, that the close connexion which is now formed with the Rajah of Tanjore, opens a new and extensive branch in the affairs of the Company ; that the different interests proceeding from that connexion are to be adjusted and maintained ; and all disputes and misunderstandings which may arise between the Nabob and the Rajah, or between the Rajah and the Polygars situated near Tanjore, must be enquired into and settled by the particular attention of this Government.

The President considering these circumstances, is clearly of opinion, that it will greatly facilitate the measures which may be thought necessary, in consequence of our new engagements with the Rajah, if a Chief and Council were appointed to reside constantly at Tanjore ; such an establishment he thinks will give confidence to the Rajah, and convince him that he is really protected ; it will enable us to come more readily at the knowledge of his situation, to enquire into and settle any differences that may arise between him and the Nabob, or between him and the neighbouring Polygars ; to convey our sentiments and instructions with greater facility, and upon more certain grounds than by a direct correspondence with the Rajah, in which, for want of previous information, many explanations might be necessary, and much time be lost before any thing decisive could be done. The President further adds, that when there is so large a sum as four Lacks of Pagodas to be paid yearly by the Rajah, when there is so considerable a force to be paid and supplied with all kinds of military stores, when there are fortifications to be put in repair, and buildings to be erected within the town, he thinks it highly expedient that all these services should be performed under the immediate inspection and control of a Chief and Council, who will keep regular accounts and diaries of their proceedings to be transmitted to the Presidency.

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For these, and many other reasons which might be urged, the President is induced to recommend the appointment in the strongest terms to the Board ; and further, to propose the following gentlemen as very proper persons for the stations to which they are named, viz.

Mr. Ruffell, Chief,

Mr. Edward Frowd, second,

Mr. Gideon Firth, third, and

Mr. William Wynch, fourth.

The orders of the Company, in their separate letter of 12th April, 1775, respecting Tanjore, are then read ; also the letter from the Board to Lord Pigot in the military department, dated 24th April last, and the minutes of consultation in the military department 13th May.

After some debate on the subject of the President's proposal, Sir Robert Fletcher desires to enter the following Minute :

Sir Robert
Fletcher's
Minute.

Sir Robert Fletcher cannot, upon this short notice, give an opinion on the propriety or impropriety of the plan proposed by the President, particularly as the various reasons urged by his Lordship appear to merit much serious deliberation. His Lordship's reason however, respecting the 4 Lacks of Pagodas for the purpose of an investment, Sir Robert Fletcher cannot approve, because the idea is contrary to the Company's positive orders, and because it is his clear opinion that the greatest part of that sum, if not the whole, ought to be appropriated to the payment of the troops to be raised for the defence of the fort and country of Tanjore, and to defray the expense of military stores, &c. If any part of the sum shall not be so appropriated, Sir Robert Fletcher thinks we are bound by the positive orders of our Masters to return such surplus to the Rajah of Tanjore ; and Sir Robert Fletcher deems it his duty upon this occasion to declare, that he thinks our present establishment of the
army

army is by no means sufficient to defend our possessions, including the Tanjore fort and country.

Several members, in like manner with Sir Robert Fletcher, expressing themselves unable to form any judgment on the President's proposal, without having further time to consider it, Sir Robert Fletcher moves the previous question, which the President would not suffer, he considering it an innovation.

He further urges the necessity of coming to a speedy determination; and amongst other things observes, that esteeming it a matter of great moment, he had requested Mr. Dawson to favour him with his attendance to-day; but after what Mr. Dawson had said at the opening of the Council concerning his health, and the preparations he was making for his voyage, he could not with any propriety request his attendance again.

Mr. Dawson replies, that as a good servant of the Company he cannot refuse his assistance, when it is essential for the Company's interest, and he will be ready to come to the Board any future day that may be appointed for taking the President's proposal into consideration. The President then recommends, that Monday next be appointed for that purpose, which is agreed to.

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Fort St. George, 8th July, 1776.

Monday
the 8th.

AT A CONSULTATION,

P R E S E N T,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President,

George Stratton,

George Dawson,

Claud Russell,

Charles Floyer,

Archdale Palmer,

Sir Robert Fletcher,

Henry Brooke,

Alexander Dalrymple,

John Maxwell Stone,

Francis Jourdan,

George Mackay.

President
moves, a Chief
and Council
be appointed
to Tanjore.

THE Right Honourable the President having assembled the Council this morning for the purpose of determining the question before them, relative to the appointment of a Chief and Council at Tanjore, now moves, that that appointment, as recommended by him in Consultation the 28th June, may pass.

The votes of the several members being taken on the President's motion, are as follows :

Mr. Mackay against the motion, for the reasons contained in the following minute, which he desires may be entered.

My reasons for not assenting to the Right Honourable the President's motion to appoint Mr. Russell Chief, and Messieurs Frowd, Firth, and Wynch, a Council for Tanjore, are, that I think, in the first place, a Chief and Council totally unnecessary in that country, that I think such an appointment contrary to the spirit of the Company's orders by the Grenville. Secondly, That if I thought it for the Company's interest to send a Chief and Council to Tanjore, I should object to Mr.

Ruffell being appointed, because the Court of Directors have already ordered him on a service which they think very important, I mean the Committee of Circuit, of which Mr. Ruffell is now President, by Mr. Dawson's being permitted to go home on account of his health.

GEO. MACKAY.

Mr. Jourdan against the motion, because he thinks the appointment of a Chief and Council at Tanjore unnecessary, and inconsistent with the spirit of the Company's orders.

Mr. Palmer against the motion, for the following reasons, which he delivers in writing:

I do object to the motion, as I do not see the advantages that the President mentions will accrue to the Company from this measure's being adopted. If his Lordship means the establishment of an investment, as I conceive he does, it does not appear to me that such can arise, as I am of opinion, that was such a measure thought proper, no step can be so proper as an increase of that to the northward. I do further object as I think it cannot meet with the approbation of our Honourable Masters.

Mr. Stone for the motion, for the reasons urged by the President.

Mr. Floyer against the motion, for the reasons contained in the following minute entered by him.

1st, Because the nomination of a Chief and Council to Tanjore is, in my opinion, directly contrary to the spirit, if not the words, of the Honourable Company's commands transmitted to us by the Grenville, in the following paragraph of their separate letter, the 12th April, 1775, Par. 7.

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“ You are however in our name to assure the King of Tanjore, that no diminution of his authority over his subjects is intended by us, and that we will severely punish any military officer, or Company’s servant, who shall in any respect interfere in the affairs of his Government; and you are to take especial care that this article be punctually fulfilled on the part of the Company.”

Secondly, Because I think one of the reasons urged at the Board, in support of the nomination of the Chief and Council, viz. “ That as the Rajah of Tanjore had stipulated to pay annually to the Company four Lacks of Pagodas for the protection of his country, a sum expected to exceed the military disbursements of the Company for that purpose, the expenditure of a part of the surplus, in the provision of an investment, would prevent a drain of treasure from the Tanjore country,” is expressly provided against in the latter part of the 6th paragraph of the said commands: “ And you are likewise to insist upon having an assignment of revenues made to the Company, sufficient for the maintenance of the said troops, and for providing military stores necessary for the defence of the garrison.” And again, in the 8th paragraph, “ You are also to assure the King of Tanjore, that particular accounts of the expense of the garrison shall be laid before him every three months, or so often as he shall require it; that no extravagance shall be permitted, nor any improper charge shall be allowed in such accounts; and that if the annual amount thereof shall at any time be less than the revenues assigned to the Company, the surplus of the said revenue shall be faithfully returned to him; but if the expense of the garrison shall exceed the amount of the revenues so assigned, then the King of Tanjore shall make good the deficiency.”

In the letter from the King of Tanjore to the President, bearing date the 12th April last, are the following words :

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“ In the present condition of my country, the placing a garrison of English troops in the Fort and City of Tanjore is exceedingly necessary ; but besides this garrison, if the Company will allow more troops also for the protection of my whole country, this also will be highly proper. If, by the favour of Heaven, this be put in execution, neither I nor any of my family will need to apprehend that the calamities of war will fall upon this country again ; and if the Company will only favour me thus far, I will with pleasure assign them, out of my revenues, the sum of four Lacks of Pagodas per annum for their military expenses ; the mode of payment as follows : November, 20,000, December, 40,000, January, 40,000, February, 100,000, March, 100,000, April, 100,000.”

From the words of the Rajah in the foregoing paragraph, where, in representing the propriety of being allowed more troops for the protection of his whole country, he says, “ And if the Company will only favour me thus far, I will with pleasure assign them, &c.” It should appear, that in consideration of the additional number of troops he requires for the protection of his whole country, the Rajah has been induced to offer so handsome an assignment to the Company as four Lacks of Pagodas for their military disbursements ; and the Council assent to the requisition, in the reply of the Right Honourable the President, dated the 16th May ensuing, to the Rajah’s letter, in which are the following words :

“ With the greatest satisfaction I tell you, that on my arrival here I found every gentleman of the Council was of opinion with me, that the request you were pleased to make in your letter of the 12th of April shall be complied with, viz. that your Fort shall be garrisoned by the Company’s troops, and your country protected by them likewise.”

In the course of my enquiries into this circumstance, I do not find that the number of Company's troops does now exceed the number employed in the Rajah's country at the time he made this requisition: any expected surplus from the said assignment should therefore, in my opinion, be appropriated to the maintenance of any additional troops which may be sent into the Country of Tanjore, in compliance with the requisition of the Rajah, in preference to such surplus being employed in the provision of an investment. And here I cannot help observing, that the prospect of surplus is yet very distant. The Company's troops in the Tanjore Kingdom, and all military disbursements whatsoever, must be maintained from the Company's Treasury from the month of April last to November following, when we shall have an account of seven months arrears to settle with the Rajah; and in the three succeeding months the Company are to receive from him only one Lack of Pagodas, and the full amount of the assignment not till April next, by three equal monthly payments; a period within three months of the time we might expect the orders of our Honourable Masters in reply to our intended dispatches by the Grenville as well respecting the appropriation of any surplus that may arise from the King of Tanjore's assignment, as the President's recommendation of a Chief and Council to Tanjore.

Thirdly, Because I think the residence of an English Chief and Council, in any country which does not belong to the Company, can have no authority; is not only unprecedented, but improper; but more particularly so, if such residence, as is proposed, is in the Fort of Tanjore, because I apprehend it must necessarily diminish the authority and consequence of the Rajah over his own subjects.

CHARLES FLOYER.

Mr. Dalrymple for the motion.

Mr. Russell for the motion, as he thinks the measure necessary.

Mr.

Mr. Jourdan here desires it may be minuted, that as Mr. Russell is recommended by the President to fill the station of Chief in the proposed appointment, he thinks it irregular and improper that he should give a vote on the present question.

Mr. Brooke against the motion. He further adds, that in his opinion it is improper for a member of the Board to give a vote in appointing himself to any station, which is making him judge in his own cause, and that it should not be regarded as a precedent.

Mr. Dawson for the motion, because, from the difficulties this Government labours under at present, he thinks the proposed appointment necessary; and however it may deviate from the Company's orders, he flatters himself the necessity will justify the proceeding.

Sir Robert Fletcher against the motion, for the reasons contained in the following minute delivered in by him :

I think the proposed appointment directly contrary to the spirit of the Company's orders; *I think those orders are wise orders*; nor do I see a possibility of an establishment of a Chief and Council within the Fort of Tanjore, without that interference with the Rajah's government which is absolutely forbid by our Masters. If it were necessary to carry on an investment in the Tanjore country, which I do not admit, the country about Devecota, which was offered by the Rajah to the Company, and refused by us, appears to me to be the proper seat of a Chief and Council for the purpose of an investment. With respect to the difference between an investment in the Tanjore country and the northern investment, as well as with respect to the other reasons urged in favour of the plan, I will explain myself further in writing for the information of our Masters.

Mr. Stratton against the motion, for the following reasons :

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I cannot agree with the Right Honourable the President in the expediency of the appointment he proposes of a Chief and Council ; for even admitting that an investment could be carried on at Tanjore on behalf of the Company, (of which I have my doubts) I think it would be very improper to do so, being of opinion, that the four Lacks of Pagodas promised annually to be paid by the Rajah of Tanjore, should be kept for the purpose for which it was given, that of paying a force for the protection of his country; the Rajah having expressly said, in his letter to the President, that he did with pleasure assign the Company out of his revenues the sum of four Lacks of Pagodas per annum for the military expenses ; and in another part of his letter the Rajah says, " If the Company will allow some more troops for the protection of my whole country, this also would be very proper." From the foregoing this appearing to be a voluntary offer on the Rajah's part was my reason for accepting it. If the force now paid by the Company and the Nabob should be thought sufficient for the protection both of the Carnatic and the Tanjore country, I am of opinion, in this case, the surplus of what may remain to the Rajah's credit be reserved in the Treasury, that in case of troubles he be charged in proportion as these revenues bear to that of the Carnatic ; for I cannot think that one country can be attacked or invaded without the other.

Having thus given my opinion in what manner the sum given by the Rajah should be appropriated, it is a duty incumbent on me to assign my reasons against the proposed appointment of a Chief and Council.

From the spirit of the Company's orders by the Grenville they absolutely forbid it, and, in my opinion, they will never approve of a Chief and Council being appointed to any settlement but what solely belongs to them.

2d. Admitting that such an appointment was consonant to their orders, I cannot see the use of it ; for a Paymaster can surely pay the troops there,

there, as in the Nabob's garrisons. His accounts are checked by the Commandant of the garrison, and monthly transmitted here. The repairs of the fort are conducted by a Company's engineer agreeably to their orders; and as the Paymaster pays the Cooleys, &c. they are checks on each other. It cannot be otherwise if a Chief and Council were there; nor can the protection of the fort rest on them, but on the officer commanding, who is the proper judge what stores and provisions are necessary for its defence.

3d. Should the Rajah request the aid of a military force to quell any troubles, this power, in my opinion, should not be lodged in a Chief and Council, nor in the military officer; for when such aid is requested, it is his duty first to have the sanction of the Government (which can be given him in a short time) before he grants it; nor ought this military officer, in any respect, to interfere in disputes that may happen between the Nabob and the Rajah, but fully to represent the same, that it may be determined by this Government.

The President, after declaring himself for the motion, expresses his concern, that he cannot have the concurrence of the Board in carrying into execution a measure, which he still thinks essentially necessary for the reasons he has already given. That he does not perceive the force of any of the objections which have been urged against it; nevertheless, as a majority of the Board have given their opinion on that side of the question, by which the proposed appointment is rejected, he shall acquiesce in that determination until the pleasure of the Court of Directors can be known.

Carried against the motion.

The Right Honourable the President further observes, that since the measure recommended by him cannot at present take place, he hopes the Board will have no objection to the appointment of a Resident at Tanjore, who may in part be able to fulfil the purposes he had in view from

President moves, That Mr. Russell be appointed Resident at Tanjore.

from the appointment of a Chief and Council. He then moves, that Mr. Russell be appointed Resident at Tanjore.

Mr. Mackay is against the motion ; because he thinks the same reasons which he has already given with respect to Mr. Russell, will hold good against his going Resident to Tanjore; he thinks that appointment also unnecessary, because all the Company's business with the Rajah may be transacted through the military officer commanding in his country, the Company's civil servant, who shall be appointed Paymaster at Tanjore, and the Rajah's Vackeel at this place.

GEO. MACKAY.

Mr. Jourdan against the motion.

Mr. Palmer against the motion.

Mr. Stone for the motion.

Mr. Floyer against it.

Mr. Dalrymple for it.

Mr. Russell for it.

Mr. Brooke against it.

Mr. Dawson for it.

Sir Robert Fletcher against it, because he thinks the military officer is the proper person to execute all the duties proposed for the Resident, excepting that of investment, which, he has already said, he thinks unnecessary.

Mr. Stratton for the motion.

The President for the motion.

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The numbers being equally divided upon this question, it is resolved, by the casting voice of the President, that Mr. Russell be appointed Resident at Tanjore.

Carried for
the motion.

Mr. Dawson now takes his final leave of the Board.

Mr. Dawson
takes leave of
the Board.

Pigot
Geo. Stratton
Rob. Fletcher
Henry Brooke
Claud Russell
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

Extract of Fort St. George Revenue Consultations, 28th June, 1776.

SIR Robert Fletcher being of opinion, that the time limited by the Company has been long expired for enforcing their commands respecting the Committee of Circuit, he now begs leave to record this his opinion, that he may not in future be in any degree responsible or subject to blame, either for disobedience or neglect of those important orders.

Minute of
Sir Robert
Fletcher re-
specting the
Committee of
Circuit.

Fort St. George, 26th July, 1776.

Revenue de-
partment.

AT A CONSULTATION.

P R E S E N T,

Friday the
26th.

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President.

George Stratton

General Sir Robert Fletcher

Henry Brooke

Claud Russell

Alexander Dalrymple

Charles Floyer

John Maxwell Stone

Archdale Palmer

Francis Jourdan

George Mackay.

Mr. Jourdan informs the Board, that he has delivered a minute to the Secretary, in which there is a motion respecting the Committee of Circuit. Mr. Mackay desires to second the motion. The minute is then read as follows :

Mr. Jour-
dan's minute
respecting
the Commit-
tee of Cir-
cuit.

The Court of Directors say, that when the business of Tanjore shall be finally settled, the Committee of Circuit shall be ordered upon that service. When they gave those orders, it is very probable they expected resistance on the part of the Nabob ; for they direct us to apply to the Gentlemen at Bengal, if necessary, and direct them, if applied to, to co-operate in the carrying of their orders relative to Tanjore into execution. This appears also from the anxious manner in which they express themselves on that subject by the Royal Henry, and therefore it was consistent and judicious in the Court of Directors to order, that a business, from which the most important consequences might result, should be conducted by as many members of the Board as could be spared from the other departments. But the Nabob, although he has objected to the restitution of the country, has not in any instance resisted, and the Rajah is in possession of the whole country Hanamantagoody excepted; of this the Board have written to the Nabob, and although he has claimed it as part of the Marawar country, yet
when

when he considers what has been said upon that subject, it is to be hoped he will judge proper that it be restored.

This however is not of much importance; for were he to object as having been illegally taken from the Marawar, there can be no doubt but that both parties would willingly submit this to the decision of the Company; to which may be added, that the Rajah has intrusted to the Company the defence of his country, and stipulated an ample sum for that purpose. The claims of Mr. Benfield have been brought before the Board; the Circar share of the crop has been adjudged to the Nabob, and the mortgages of course are admitted. Nothing remains then but to ascertain what the Rajah has received, and to settle such terms of payment as may be just.

I have been thus particular on these subjects, as whenever the Circuit has been mentioned, the Tanjore business has been urged against it. I know of no circumstance, in the present situation of our affairs, that can justify the longer delay in carrying the orders of the Company for the Circuit into execution; on the contrary, the rents of some of the farms are continued for one year, and the mode tends evidently to the distress of the inhabitants in those districts. The Zemindaries likewise must be managed in the same manner. The Zemindar will be discouraged from improvement in the apprehension of increase of tribute; and this mode, injurious as it may be, cannot be altered until the Committee obtain full and perfect information of the real value of the lands. The Circars are capable of great improvement; the soil in most parts is rich; two very considerable rivers, and some smaller ones run through them. The inhabitants of the countries under Bazalet Jung and Nizam Ally Cawn are greatly oppressed, and with proper encouragement many might be brought to reside with us. The forests to the westward produce Teak and other valuable woods; they have mines which might furnish iron for many useful purposes; saltpetre is made on the borders of the Guntoor Circar; the sugar canes

grow luxuriantly in the Rajahmundry Circar ; and over the whole country are weavers in great numbers.

To secure to the inhabitants their just rights from their Lords and from each other, by establishing some mode of obtaining justice ; to cultivate the deserted and waste lands ; to restore a country almost depopulated by frequent wars and other calamities ; to apply the superfluous waters of the Guadiverry, the Kistna, and other rivers, to the purposes of cultivation ; and, by increasing the quantity of provisions, to improve the manufactures and encourage the workman. These are objects worthy of Government, and which, if well attended to, will give confidence, wealth, and happiness to the people, and increase of revenue to the Government ; and these are the objects intrusted to the care of the Committee. For all these reasons should be ordered upon the Circuit, and I therefore move, that according to those orders they be immediately sent upon it.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

The foregoing minute concluding with a motion, That the Committee of Circuit do immediately proceed upon their enquiries, Mr. Mackay desires leave to second it.

The Right Honourable the President, previous to putting the question, observes to the Board, that in his opinion there are many points of great consequence that remain to be settled, in which he should be glad to have the assistance of as many of the members as possible. That the orders of the Company are, that the Committee of Circuit shall not proceed until the affairs respecting Tanjore shall have been accommodated and finally adjusted ; and those affairs being still unsettled, he thinks by the Company's orders the Committee ought not yet to proceed, and therefore he cannot recommend the measure.

The

The President then puts the question.

Mr. Mackay for the motion.

Mr. Jourdan for the motion.

Mr. Palmer for the motion, with the following minute :

As Committee of Circuit appears to be a business the Court of Directors seem to have very much at heart, from the information they expect from it, relating to points so very essential to their affairs, and as I am likewise apprehensive that much benefit will arise from their proceeding, I am of opinion that there should be no longer delay in their setting out.

Mr. Stone against the motion, as the Company's orders respecting Tanjore are not, in his opinion accomplished, there being many material matters remaining unadjusted.

Mr. Floyer concurs entirely with Mr. Jourdan in the sentiments he has delivered in his minute, and he thinks, if the Board were longer to defer the departure of the Committee of Circuit, they would disobey the positive orders of the Court of Directors; for which reason, and for those expressed in Mr. Jourdan's minute, he is for the motion.

Mr. Dalrymple against the motion, as the President has declared it to be his opinion, that the Committee of Circuit cannot at this time proceed to the Northern Circars consistent with the Company's orders, which require " Affairs respecting Tanjore to be accommodated and finally adjusted ;" but he thinks the Committee may proceed to execute their trust in the Jaghire lands, where the members can attend any urgent call.

Mr. Russell against the motion, for the reasons given by Mr. Dalrymple.

Mr. Brooke for the motion.

Sir Robert Fletcher for the motion, because he thinks the business of the Committee of the first importance to the Company; and he is clearly of opinion, that not any thing remains to be settled respecting Tanjore, which can by any construction come within the letter or meaning of the Company's orders regarding the Committee of Circuit.

Mr. Stratton for the motion.

President against it.

Carried for the question, by a majority of seven to four.

President. As Mr. Jourdan has paid so much attention to the Company's orders respecting the Committee of Circuit, and thinking it of consequence that it should proceed immediately, the President recommends him to fill up the vacancy occasioned by the departure of Mr. Dawson.

Mr. Jourdan thereupon informs the Board, that since he has been in the service he has taken his tour of duty at Manilha, Cuddalore, and Mazulipatam, and he hopes therefore the Board will be pleased to permit him to decline the honour intended him by the Right Honourable the President.

The question being then put, Whether Mr. Jourdan shall proceed on the Committee in the room of Mr. Dawson? The votes of the members are taken as follow :

Mr.

Mr. Mackay against the motion.

Mr. Jourdan observes, that since it has been resolved that a member may vote in his own cause, he shall in the present case give his voice against the question.

Mr. Palmer against the question.

Mr. Stone against the question, as Mr. Jourdan himself does not wish to proceed on the Committee of Circuit.

Mr. Floyer. Whenever any member of the Circuit shall assign reasons for not proceeding on that duty which may appear satisfactory to him, and so far as he deems correspondent with his duty to the Court of Directors, he shall ever be ready to give his assent. The reasons assigned by Mr. Jourdan appearing so to him, he declares his vote against the question.

Mr. Dalrymple for the question, because he thinks it the duty of every member to proceed on such service as the President recommends to be for the interest of the Company ; and because in his opinion the reasons assigned by Mr. Jourdan are not sufficient to excuse him, as he thinks him a man of business, and therefore a very proper person to be a member of the Committee of Circuit.

Mr. Russell for the question.

Mr. Brooke against the question.

Sir Robert Fletcher observes, that he should be very glad to have Mr. Jourdan's abilities employed on the Committee of Circuit ; but in justice to Mr. Jourdan, he cannot but excuse him for the reasons which he has assigned, and therefore he is against the question.

M. Stratton against the question, for the same reasons.

President for the question.

Carried against the question, by a majority of eight to three.

Agreed to adjourn until Monday morning.

Pigot
Geo. Stratton
Rob. Fletcher
Henry Brooke
Claud Russell
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

Fort St. George, 29th July, 1776.

AT A CONSULTATION.

P R E S E N T,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President.

George Stratton	General Sir Robert Fletcher
Henry Brooke	Claud Russell
Alexander Dalrymple	Charles Floyer
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

Minutes of last Consultation read.

Mr. Mackay delivers in the following letter, which is read :

To

Revenue
Department.

Monday, the
29th July.

*To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President, &c. Council of
Fort St. George.*

My Lord and Gentlemen,

AS the Court of Directors have done me the honour to include my name in the Committee of Circuit for the Northern Circars, I should think myself wanting in duty, if I did not express the grateful sense I have of this mark of their favour; at the same time I esteem it equally my duty to inform the Board, that in my own ideas I cannot with propriety, or with hopes of being so useful to the Company as I could wish, undertake a trust of such importance, when I know it is impossible for me to take an active part in the business; I say this, because my time of life at the age of near sixty, and after having suffered much fatigue with the army in the field, I hope I shall stand excused in the opinion of our Honourable Masters, and of the Board, if I request to be indulged with remaining at the Presidency, where, to the utmost of my strength and abilities, I shall always endeavour to do my duty to the Company.

Letter from
Mr. Mackay,
requesting
to be re-
lieved from
his appoint-
ment as a
Member of
the Com-
mittee of
Circuit.

However, after saying thus much as the result of what I know and feel, I shall cheerfully submit myself to the determination of the Board, to dispose of me as they may see proper.

And I remain most respectfully,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient

And most humble servant,

Fort St. George,
29th July, 1776.

GEORGE MACKAY.

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The Right Honourable the President observes to the Board, that he is himself convinced that the Court of Directors never expected a servant to undertake a service of fatigue, which he is persuaded his constitution will not enable him to perform; and understanding Mr. Mackay to be of this opinion with respect to himself, the President doubts not but the Board will comply with his request.

Mr. Jourdan considering what has been urged by Mr. Mackay, particularly his time of life, he thinks his services on the Circuit ought to be dispensed with.

Mr. Palmer agrees in opinion with Mr. Jourdan.

Mr. Stone agrees to Mr. Mackay's request, for the reasons urged by the President.

Mr. Floyer is of opinion that Mr. Mackay should be excused, and enters the following minute on the subject :

The reasons set forth by Mr. Mackay, in his letter to the Board, for requesting to be excused the duties of a Member of the Committee of Circuit, are such as, in my opinion, justly merit an indulgence from this Board; I therefore think he should be excused, and hope this my opinion will be deemed conformable to the declaration made in my minute of the 26th instant, on a similar occasion respecting Mr. Jourdan.

Mr. Dalrymple assents to Mr. Mackay's request, for the reasons assigned by the President.

Mr. Russell assents to Mr. Mackay's request, for the same reasons.

Mr. Brooke assents to Mr. Mackay's request, for the reasons assigned in his letter and by the President.

Sir Robert Fletcher agrees to excuse Mr. Mackay on account of his great age, but he does not admit that Mr. Mackay is to be the only judge whether or not he can perform the service.

Mr. Stratton thinks Mr. Mackay should be excused, being persuaded, from his advanced age, that he cannot bear the fatigues attending the duty of a Member of the Committee of Circuit.

Resolved unanimously, That Mr. Mackay be excused from proceeding on the Circuit.

Resolved accordingly.

The Board taking into consideration in what manner the two vacancies in the Committee of Circuit shall be filled up, and Mr. Stone being mentioned by some of the Members as a proper person for that service, the Right Honourable the President expresses his hope that the Board will not think of Mr. Stone on this occasion: that Mr. Stone, ever since his arrival in the country, has always been employed in the settlement; that he was ten years in office as Secretary to the Military Department, part of which time was in the President's former Government, when he found Mr. Stone's services very useful to him, both in his official and private capacity; that he has experienced the same ready and chearful assistance from that Gentleman during his present Government; and being persuaded that his long official experience, and knowledge of the Company's affairs, will make him more useful at the Presidency than if he were employed on the Circuit, he flatters himself the Board will dispense with his going upon that service.

Agreed, at the request of the President, and for the reasons urged by him, that Mr. Stone be excused from going on the Circuit.

Mr. Dalrymple reads the following minute:

The business for which the Committee of Circuit are appointed, is

—To

Minute of
Mr. Dal-
rymple
respecting
the Circuit.

——To ascertain, with all possible exactness, the produce of the country——

The number of inhabitants——

State of manufactures——

Fortified places——

Gross amount of the revenues——

Articles from which they arise——

Mode by which they are collected——

Specific proportion usually received by the Rajah or Zemindar,

And what custom or usage has allotted to the Cultivator.

What security the native has for his property.

What Courts of Justice.

How far similar regulations to those lately established in Bengal may be introduced with propriety in the Northern Circars,

Ascertain the strength of each Rajah or Zemindar——

Expense of his troops, &c.—

The means of defraying those expenses——

The number of regular Seapoys necessary to maintain.

The Company express an intention, that every military man in the Circars to be paid by the Company.

And that the Committee of Circuit are afterwards to proceed to let the lands.

That

That branch of the Committee's duty which depends upon enquiry can scarcely be effected by a Committee, at least it can be much more effectually and expeditiously done by a single person, with the assistance of junior servants; and when the several reports are made to the Board, the Committee then proceeding conjointly to let the lands, may on the spot examine each report, to see that it is complete and exact.

By this method, each person of the Committee will naturally be stimulated to distinguish himself, by the manner in which he executes his trust; and being left to execute it in the mode he thinks best, it will be done more completely, as well as more expeditiously, than if the whole Committee act in conjunction.

Mr. Floyer seeing the difficulties which the Board are under in filling up the vacancies in the Committee of Circuit, readily offers his service upon this occasion, observing only, that for want of local knowledge, he does not think himself at present competent to do the duties of a member of the Committee; but if the Board will permit him to remain at Masulipatam, (where he has been appointed Chief by the Honourable Court of Directors, and of which Settlement he has not yet taken charge) until he shall have acquired that local knowledge so necessary in a Chief for the information of the Committee of Circuit, he will, after having obtained such necessary information, readily join the Committee, and go with them in their enquiries.

Mr. Floyer
offers himself
as a Member
of the Com-
mittee of
Circuit.

Agreed unanimously, That Mr. Floyer be one of the Committee of Circuit, and that he be permitted to remain at Masulipatam, so long as he shall find it convenient for the above purposes.

Sir Robert Fletcher, Mr. Jourdan, and Mr. Mackay, having given an opinion heretofore, that Chiefs ought not to be appointed members of the Committee of Circuit, but the majority determining contrary to

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that

that opinion, they think themselves at liberty to assent to Mr. Floyer's being of the Committee of Circuit.

One vacancy in the Committee remaining still to be filled up, and Mr. Lathom, the Chief of Cuddalore, being proposed as a proper person, it is moved that he be appointed a member. The question being accordingly put by the Right Honourable the President—

Mr. Mackay for the question.

Mr. Jourdan for it.

Mr. Palmer for it.

Mr. Stone for it, supposing it will be agreeable to Mr. Lathom.

Mr. Floyer for it.

Mr. Dalrymple and Mr. Russell for it, thinking Mr. Lathom a proper person, and thinking it will be agreeable to him.

Mr. Brooke against it, and delivers the following minute :

I give my negative to the appointing Mr. Lathom on the Committee of Circuit, because I think it improper to call the Chief of Cuddalore to proceed to the Northern Circars, where he has had no opportunity of acquiring any knowledge in the business on which that Committee is ordered ; whereas the Chief of Ganjam, by his residence there, may have acquired such knowledge, as might be of material service in investigating the several matters recommended by the Company ; and because the Chiefs of Vizagapatam and Masulipatam having been appointed members of that Committee, he may be called before them (though his juniors in the service) without having a seat with them, which I think is an indignity, though I think this Board never meant that any should be offered him.

Resolved

Resolved accordingly, That Mr. Lathom be appointed a member of the Committee of Circuit, with permission to retain the Chiefship of Cuddalore; that he be advised of his appointment, and desired to repair to the Presidency with all convenient expedition.

Agreed to meet again on Thursday next on the business of the Committee of Circuit.

Pigot
Geo. Stratton
Rob. Fletcher
Henry Brooke
Claud Ruffell
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

29. Received by Tappies general letter from Ganjam, dated the 13th instant; one from Vizagapatam, dated the 18th instant; and one from Cuddalore, dated the 26th instant.

Received by Tappies general letter from Masulipatani, dated the 25th instant.

Fort

Revenue de-
partment.

Thursday the
1st.

Fort St. George, 1st August, 1776.

A T A C O N S U L T A T I O N .

P R E S E N T ,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President.

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher
Henry Brooke	Claud Russell
Alexander Dalrymple	Charles Floyer
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

Minutes of last Consultation read.

THE Right Honourable the President lays before the Board the following minute, which is read :

The President observing to the Board, that the occasion of their now assembling is in consequence of the resolution of the last Council, that they should this day take under consideration the departure of the Committee of Circuit ; and having, upon a former day, represented that he thought the affairs of Tanjore far from being finally adjusted, he continues of opinion that the Committee ought not at this time to proceed on the Circuit.

The President maintains, that there are many very great abuses at the Presidency, in the investigation of which he thinks the extraordinary diligence and application of Mr. Dalrymple is essentially necessary to him, and these require to be fully examined into and regulated, before the members of the Council proceed upon a business which will take years to execute. Notwithstanding which, the President, convinced of the infinite importance of the Jaghire, has no objection to the

Committee of Circuit going upon an enquiry into the state thereof, which is a service he hopes may be performed in a few months, with the assistance of the examination Mr. Barnard has already made.

The President further observes, that he has a volume of complaints to lay before the Committee; that he had many made to him on his late journey; and the last letter from the Nabob, desiring that orders of government may be made public, which orders in fact would be understood to discourage and forbid complaints being brought to the Presidency, strengthens him the more in his opinion that those complaints require their first attention.

The President hopes that the reasons assigned by Mr. Mackay do not extend to a service of so short a duration, and so near the Presidency, as the Jaghire; and therefore, as the Court of Directors have been pleased to name him, the President recommends that he be a member of the Committee on this expedition into the Jaghire, and more particularly as Mr. Floyer will depart soon for Masulipatam, and Mr. Russell is nominated, by the resolution of Council of the 8th July, to be Resident at Tanjore, on which service the President thinks it absolutely necessary for the Company's interest that he should forthwith proceed; and if any obstacle is made to his departure, he, the President, takes this occasion formally to protest against all consequences which may ensue.

The above minute having been read, the Right Honourable the President desires that the last letter from the Nabob, to which he has referred in the said minute, may be also read, which is done as follows:

From the Nabob, dated 16th July, 1776, received ditto.

I UNDERSTAND that some people, who wish to make differences between me and the Company, have encouraged the Ryots in the Jaghire to make complaints against me. The former Governors and Council of

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Madras

Madras consented that the shares of the crop due to the respective inhabitants should be settled according to the usages established by Saadut Ulla Cawn. I have ever recommended to my Aumils to attend to these usages, and allow the Choutrams and Enams granted by former Soubahs. Some of the Ryots, partly out of their own malicious disposition, and partly instigated and encouraged by others, are not content with the shares to which they have a right, by the usages established in Saadut Ulla Cawn's time, but insist upon more than their due : as their demands are not founded upon justice, and only tend to throw confusion into the mode of collecting the rents, upon which every thing depends, I therefore beg leave to recommend to you, that you will order notice to be given by public advertisements to all the Ryots and inhabitants of the Company's Jaghire, that the Cultivators shall receive the shares due to them, as established in Saadut Ulla Cawn's time, and that free possession of all Choutrams and Enams granted by former Soubahs shall be allowed. That if any Ryot shall demand more than is due to him by the above-mentioned usages, he shall not receive encouragement or protection from the English. This will put a stop to all irregularities in the Government and cultivation of the lands, which will tend to the Company's advantage.

What can I say more?

He then moves, that the Committee of Circuit shall first proceed to the investigation of the Jaghire; and the question being put—

Mr. Mackay against the question, as he is clearly of opinion the Court of Directors, in their orders by the Grenville, mean that the Northern Circars shall be investigated by the Committee of Circuit before the Jaghire.

Mr. Jourdan against the question, for the reasons contained in the following minute :

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As the abuses, of which the Right Honourable the President speaks, are not specified, I can only say, that in my opinion the President ought to lay them before the Board; and that the members who will remain here after the Gentlemen appointed of the Circuit may set out, will be competent to the investigation of any abuses that may exist. The material parts of the Tanjore business I think are concluded. The Nabob desires that we order notice to be given, that the Ryots and inhabitants shall receive the shares established in Saadut Ulla Cawn's time.— That all Choutrams and Enams granted by former Soubahs shall be allowed, and that if any Ryot shall demand more than is due to him, he shall not receive encouragement and protection from the English; all which, I think, may be done in terms that will not preclude the injured from complaining. The members of the Committee of Revenue may, in the absence of the Committee of Circuit, receive and examine the accounts of the Trepasfore, &c. districts collected by Mr. Barnard; and I therefore am against the question.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Mr. Palmer against the question, as he thinks the spirit of the Company's orders is, that the Northern Circars shall be first investigated by the Committee of Circuit.

Mr. Stone observes, that he has already given his opinion, that the departure of the Committee of Circuit should be delayed for some time, as it appeared to him there were many important points respecting Tanjore remaining to be adjusted; but it having been determined by the Board that the Committee shall proceed immediately, he thinks they should make the Jaghire the first object of their enquiry, as they may on any emergency be called to the Presidency at a short notice; he is therefore for the question.

Mr.

Madras consented that the shares of the crop due to the respective inhabitants should be settled according to the usages established by Saadut Ulla Cawn. I have ever recommended to my Aumils to attend to these usages, and allow the Choutrams and Enams granted by former Soubahs. Some of the Ryots, partly out of their own malicious disposition, and partly instigated and encouraged by others, are not content with the shares to which they have a right, by the usages established in Saadut Ulla Cawn's time, but insist upon more than their due : as their demands are not founded upon justice, and only tend to throw confusion into the mode of collecting the rents, upon which every thing depends, I therefore beg leave to recommend to you, that you will order notice to be given by public advertisements to all the Ryots and inhabitants of the Company's Jaghire, that the Cultivators shall receive the shares due to them, as established in Saadut Ulla Cawn's time, and that free possession of all Choutrams and Enams granted by former Soubahs shall be allowed. That if any Ryot shall demand more than is due to him by the above-mentioned usages, he shall not receive encouragement or protection from the English. This will put a stop to all irregularities in the Government and cultivation of the lands, which will tend to the Company's advantage.

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FRANCIS JOURDAN.

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Mr. Stone observes, that he has already given his opinion, that the departure of the Committee of Circuit should be delayed for some time, as it appeared to him there were many important points respecting Tanjore remaining to be adjusted; but it having been determined by the Board that the Committee shall proceed immediately, he thinks they should make the Jaghire the first object of their enquiry, as they may on any emergency be called to the Presidency at a short notice; he is therefore for the question.

Mr.

Mr. Floyer observes, that he has considered with due attention the subject of the Right Honourable the President's Minute, and confesses he does not see reasons sufficient to induce him to deviate from what he thinks the positive orders of the Court of Directors—that the Committee of Circuit should first proceed to the Circars, where he is of opinion the duties of the Committee are first and most essentially required; he is therefore against the question, for the above and other reasons, which he shall fully assign in a minute hereafter.

Mr. Dalrymple for the question, and gives his reasons in the following minute :

The Nabob having not given in any application for continuing to rent the Trepasfore, &c. districts, and the term for his last agreement being now expired, I think the Jaghire is at present virtually under the charge of the Committee of Circuit; and although I do not mean to say, that in case the Nabob should now make application for a continuation of this farm for the ensuing year, that his Highness's application should be rejected, because not given in before this time; yet, if a further agreement is made with him, the Company's orders are, " That this agree-
 " ment with the Nabob shall be made for *one* year only; and that it must
 " be an express condition in such agreement, that the Committee of Circuit
 " shall be at full liberty to explore the country, and to ascertain the real
 " produce and revenues thereof, in the manner described in their instruc-
 " tions respecting the Northern Circars ;" which condition would be rendered void if the Committee were first to be ordered to the Northern Circars, as it is impossible for them to execute their duty there in *one* year. And I am convinced, not only from what I have heard, but from what I have seen, that the Jaghire is capable of very great improvement, and that the inhabitants suffer great oppression.

Mr. Russell for the question, and gives his reasons in the following minute :

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I am

I am for the question for the reasons assigned by the President, and because I think the Jaghire is of the first importance to the Company, on account of its vicinity to the presidency as well as revenue, and because until the investigation is made, the lands cannot be let on long leases, which is absolutely necessary, to relieve them from the decayed state which they are said to have fallen into under the Nabob's management on leases from year to year.

Mr. Brooke observes, that he is unhappy in differing from the President in the present case, but he thinks the investigation of the Circars an object of much more importance than the Jaghire, as well as that the Company's orders have so particularly and strongly recommended it. For these reasons, and those assigned by Mr. Jourdan, he is against the question.

Sir Robert Fletcher subscribes to the opinion given by Mr. Jourdan, and is therefore against the question.

Mr. Stratton against the question, being clearly of opinion, that from the spirit of the Company's orders, the Committee of Circuit should first proceed to investigate the northern Circars, which appear to him to be the Company's principal object in the appointment of this Committee.

President for the question, observing that he is much concerned the arguments made use of in his minute have not had that weight with the Board which he expected, and which he thinks they deserve. In reply to Mr. Jourdan's minute, he remarks, that undoubtedly he ought to lay before the Board the abuses mentioned, and the sooner he does so, the more he is persuaded it will be acceptable to his employers; that he wished to do this at a time when he could have Mr. Dalrymple's assistance; that he is persuaded Mr. Jourdan is as well acquainted with the circumstances and situation of this settlement as any man, but if he should be so un-

fortunate in all his recommendations as he has been of late, it is evident he will receive very little support from his Council after the departure of the Committee of Circuit.

Carried against the question by a majority of seven to four.

Mr. Brooke delivers in the following motion in writing, which is now read.

It having been determined that the Committee of Circuit shall immediately proceed on that service, and the Court of Directors appearing desirous of having the affairs of the Chicacole Circar first settled, I move that Messrs. Russell and Dalrymple do set out by the 15th of this month to the Chicacole Circar, to be there joined by Mr. Johnson, in order to commence upon this business; that Mr. Lathom do repair thither as soon as possible, and that Mr. Floyer shall join them when he has acquired that knowledge which is so necessary for him as Chief of Masulipatam.

The above motion being read, Mr. Floyer desires leave to second it.

It being late in the day, and the Right Honourable the President informing the Board that he has a great deal to say to them on the subject of Mr. Brooke's motion, it is agreed to adjourn till to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

Pigot

George Stratton

Robt. Fletcher

Henry Brooke

Claud Russell

Charles Floyer

Archdale Palmer

Francis Jourdan

George Mackay.

Fort

Fort St. George, 2d August, 1776.

AT A CONSULTATION.

P R E S E N T,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President,	
George Stratton	Henry Brooke
Charles Floyer	John Maxwell Stone
Archdale Palmer	Francis Jourdan

George Mackay.

Sir Robert Fletcher indisposed. Mr. Russell and Mr. Dalrymple absent.

Revenue department.

Friday the 2d.

Minutes of last Consultation read.

THE Right Honourable the President acquaints the Board, that he last night directed the Secretary to intimate to the Gentlemen of the Council that it would require more time to prepare what he had to lay before them on the subject of Mr. Brooke's motion of yesterday, and that he requested their attendance this morning at 11 o'clock, in order to take under consideration a letter from Ingeram concerning the investment and other current business lying on the table; he then apologizes to Mr. Brooke for not being prepared to give an opinion on his motion, and informs him, that he shall lay before the Board what he has to offer on the subject of it as soon as possible.

The following letters from Mr. Russell and Dalrymple are now read:

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

AS I consider the motion yesterday given in by Mr. Brooke, and seconded by Mr. Floyer, to convey a charge of backwardness in my duty

to the Company, by fixing a particular day for my departure on the Committee of Circuit, I think it incumbent on me, before I can attend your councils, to request you will call upon those Gentlemen to explain themselves, and point out in what instance I have either been backward or negligent. On this occasion I must take leave to observe, that Mr. Dalrymple nor myself have not since our arrival encumbered ourselves with the charge of any employ of emolument, that we might be the readier for setting out on the Circuit when the Tanjore business should be finally adjusted.

The Board, when fuller than at present, did me the honour of appointing me Resident at Tanjore to settle the business and quiet the alarms in the Rajah's mind, before my services on the Circuit should be called upon; and I should hope they would not now frustrate that appointment, as I cannot but think it a highly necessary one, it being well known that the Nabob's Sons took great pains, and made large offers to Mr. Dawson to prevent the appointment taking place, and even now are indefatigable in their nocturnal visits.

I have the honour to be, very respectfully,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Fort St. George,

Your most obedient humble servant,

2d. August, 1776.

CLAUD RUSSELL.

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

THE motion made yesterday by Mr. Brooke, and seconded by Mr. Floyer, *conveying an imputation that Mr. Russell and I have declined our duty to the Company*, I must consider as a charge, and am under the necessity, before I attend Council, to call upon Mr. Brooke and Mr. Floyer to explain in what instance I have ever been backward in performing
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my duty, the more particularly, as I have never expressed even a wish to be excused going on the Committee of Circuit; on the contrary did always express my readiness to proceed, and to qualify myself for the execution of this duty, have with great pains abstracted the proceedings of the Board of Revenue, to know what had been done antecedent to our arrival; and before I was sent to Tanjore had drawn out a model for abridging Mr. Barnard's accounts, which model was approved of by the Board, and ordered to be carried into execution under the direction of the Accountant; and since my return, I have almost compleated, from the Company's records, an abstract of all circumstances I can find concerning the Jaghire; it is true, considering the Jaghire to be the matter of the most real importance to the Company, I have not entered into any investigation of the Northern Circars, concerning which I have no local knowledge, and am therefore as great an ignoramus as Mr. Floyer declared himself to be, and for this reason his present attendance with the Committee was excused. If the Committee are to proceed first to the Northern Circars, the pains I have taken concerning the Jaghire is labour lost and an examination of the Company's records, to acquire the necessary knowledge concerning the Northern Circars, and to have the necessary extracts made, will take more time than the motion allots for our departure.

So indecent a motion, as to affix any day for the departure of members of the Board, cannot, I presume, ever be put to the vote by the President, whose duty I conceive obliges him to pay the respect due to the members of his Council; since if there was any ground for such an order, the person who requires to be put under such command, must be unmeriting that confidence indispensably necessary to be lodged in the members of the Committee of Circuit.

But circumstanced as I am, the motion is peculiarly injurious. Upon the eve of the Grenville's dispatch, when such important matters,

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wherein I have been so much a party concerned, are to be referred to the Company, and the Commander in Chief having repeatedly intimated to the Board, his intention to call upon them to enter into the consideration of my conduct, which I am conscious will stand the test, as well as his, or any members of the Board; it is in a manner preventing me making my defence to my Honourable Masters, and precluding me from that justice which I have a perfect confidence of ever receiving from them, when all circumstances are fairly represented.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Fort St. George,
2d August, 1776.

ALEXR. DALRYMPLE.

The above letters being read, Mr. Floyer addresses himself to the Board as follows :

Mr. Floyer—The letters which have now been read from Messieurs Russell and Dalrymple, should imply, by my seconding the motion of Mr. Brooke, read yesterday at the Board, an indirect charge or accusation of neglect of duty on their parts. I have in a future consultation very fully expressed my wishes, that a time not exceeding the departure of the Grenville, should be fixed for the setting out of the Committee of Circuit, and did then assign as a reason for such wish, that it was not sufficient the Court of Directors should know that we had resolved to enforce their orders relative to the Committee of Circuit, but that they should by the same conveyance have the additional satisfaction, of knowing they were actually set out on that duty. When I uttered these my sentiments, I did expect the Grenville would have been dispatched from hence to Europe, within a month at farthest.

farthest. As we have been told by the Gentlemen of Bombay, that the Grenville would be dispatched in a few days after the Revenge, which arrived here nine days ago, and as we have nothing to detain her here to my recollection after her arrival, but the sending by her our public dispatches to the Honourable the Court of Directors, and perhaps a few bales of our investment; these together with the lateness of the season, makes me think I am rather beyond, than within the time she can with propriety be kept here.

I must add to the above reasons, that in my opinion the business of the Circuit has been already too long delayed, and that if I did not use my endeavours, as a member of this administration, to expedite the departure of the Committee, I should deservedly incur the severest censure my Honourable Masters could impose upon me. These are the reasons that induced me to second Mr. Brooke's motions, and no other; if in that act I had intended to insinuate any thing to the prejudice of those two gentlemen, I should have taken the liberty to have mentioned it at the Board, when they were present. I am extremely sorry to have given this trouble to the Board, and shall only beg leave to make one observation upon these words in Mr. Dalrymple's letter, "*so indecent a motion*," (alluding to that made by Mr. Brooke) the word *indecent* is in my opinion by no means proper to be made use of by any member upon any occasion, which leads to become a public act of the Board.

CHARLES FLOYER.

Mr. Brooke.—When I gave in my motion yesterday at the Board, it was upon a general idea, that the Company's positive commands regarding the Circuit had been already too long delayed, and not from any intention to convey to this Board any charge of neglect against Mr. Russell or Mr. Dalrymple. I have upon all occasions during the debates touching the Circuit given it as my opinion, that the Company's intentions regarding the business of Tanjore were
fully

fully accomplished, when the Rajah was put in possession of his country, and thought the Committee of Circuit should have set out immediately after that period.

Mr. Stratton proposed to move, more than two months ago, that the Committee should then proceed, but postponed it on the President's requesting it might be deferred until the arrival of the Greenwich. Upon the minute given in by Mr. Jourdan the 26th ultimo, it was determined that the Committee of Circuit should proceed immediately. The exception made to that was, that the word *immediately* was indefinite. I therefore thought it proper to mention a precise time for their departure, that no further debates might arise. I am concerned upon this occasion, that those gentlemen should misunderstand my meaning, as nothing more was intended than to carry the Company's orders into execution, which appears to me to have been already too long delayed.

HENRY BROOKE.

The Right Honourable the President remarks upon that part of Mr. Brooke's minute, which mentions his having requested Mr. Stratton to defer his motion until the arrival of the Greenwich; that it never could but have been his intention, that Mr. Stratton should postpone that motion, until he (the President) should think the proper time was arrived for the departure of the Committee, when it would be unnecessary for Mr. Stratton to make the motion at all.

The President cannot avoid upon this occasion expressing his concern, that two members of the Council, of whom he has the highest opinion, whom he has known from very young men, and whose ability and integrity are equal to those of any servant of the Company he has ever known, should be placed in a situation which they themselves think improper and disagreeable. The President feels the more, as he should think it all growing from his conduct at Tanjore, and from his wish to keep

keep the Rajah of Tanjore in a situation that shall henceforward free him from all unjust sufferings from the Nabob, did not the Gentlemen of the Majority assure him to the contrary. The President will allow great merit in the Majority, in adhering strictly to what they conceive to be the commands of the Court of Directors; but at the same time he is sorry to observe, that ever since that unfortunate journey, he has not been able to satisfy the Majority of the Council, that any political question he had to recommend was for the benefit of the Company.

Thus situated, the President thinks it his indispensable duty to recommend to the Board to call up from Gangam and Vizagapatam Messieurs Smith and Johnson, that he may be aided and assisted with their advice upon this emergent occasion. He therefore moves the Board, that they will come to that resolution, and further informs them he shall afterwards propose,

“ That the Commander of the Company's ship *Revenge* be directed to proceed to the northward, to bring up Messieurs Smith and Johnson.

“ That if upon enquiry it shall appear, that the nocturnal visits mentioned by Mr. Russell in his letter, be made by the Nabob's Sons to the members of this Council, such members be suspended from the Company's service until their pleasure be known.”

Mr. Floyer then requests that the summons sent last night to the Council may be read, which is accordingly done as follows :

Gentlemen of Council,

THE Right Honourable the President has directed me to acquaint you, that he finds it will require more time to prepare what he has to lay before the Board on the subject of Mr. Brooke's motion; that he desires however the Council will attend at the Fort to-morrow morning,

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at eleven o'clock, to take under consideration Mr Davidson's letter concerning the Ingeram investment and other current business.

I am, very respectfully,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient

humble servant,

Thursday evening,
9 o'clock.

CHAS OAKELEY, Secretary.

Mr. Floyer then reads the following minute, subscribed to by himself, Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Messieurs Brooke, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay.

After the many instances which the Majority of the Board have given of their attention to the President, it was with much concern and astonishment that we read the paper last night sent round to the Council.

A motion for the setting out of the Committee for the Circars was offered to be made by Mr. Stratton more than two months ago. Mr. Russell then objected to such a motion being made, on account of the land winds; and the President wishing that it might be postponed until the arrival of the Greenwich, the Board yielded thereto. Near two months have elapsed since the arrival of the Greenwich, and in the intermediate time it has been resolved by the Governor's casting vote, that one of the members, appointed and ordered by our masters on the Committee of Circuit, shall be appointed Resident at Tanjore; but with an intimation from the President, during the debate, that the appointment to Tanjore should not interfere in that member's going on the circuit.

Some days ago the vacancies in the Committee of Circuit were filled up, and it was resolved that the Committee should proceed immediately;

ly; and as some gentlemen observed that the word *immediately* was indefinite, Mr. Brook moved yesterday to fix their departure to a day. In this debate the President desired to have one day's delay, and to adjourn until this morning at ten o'clock. This was complied with, and it was made an act of the Board, that we should meet at that hour to proceed upon Mr. Brooke's motion. The President, notwithstanding that adjournment, having taken upon himself to order the Secretary to send round a paper to supercede that act, by summoning them at a different time to go upon the business of the Ingeram investment, (which business appears as immediately connected with that of the enquiry into the conduct of Mr. Sadler, that we think no new system can with propriety be adopted until that be finished.) We must declare this act of the President to be unconstitutional, and that it appears to us intended to delay the execution of the positive orders of the Company touching the Circuit..

In support therefore of those orders, and of the dignity and honour of this government, we think ourselves obliged to object to the going upon any fresh business, until the time of the departure, and place of the enquiry of the Committee of Circuit be settled, unless such business shall be deemed of more, or of equal importance to that which is now before the Board..

Geo. Stratton
 Rob. Fletcher
 Henry Brooke
 Charles Floyer
 Archdale Palmer
 Francis Jourdan..

The motions before entered by the Right Honourable the President, are again read at his desire..

Mr..

Mr. Jourdan.—As the passage alluded to by the Right Honourable the President, in the letter from Mr. Russell, is too general for me to form any judgment upon, I think the latter should be called upon to explain himself; and as I do not see the situation of the Company's affairs in the manner the Right Honourable the President does, I am of opinion that the motion delivered by Mr. Brooke to the Board, in point of order and regularity, as well as importance, ought to be first taken into consideration; and I therefore move that the President's motions be not now put.

Mr. Mackay.—I think the motions of the President very irregular, as another motion made by Mr. Brooke is now before the Board, and ought to be first disposed of. I am therefore of opinion that the President's motions be not now put.

Mr. Palmer.—I conceive that as there is a motion now before the Board, antecedent to the President's questions, and for the determination of which the Board are now assembled, I am of opinion that the determination of the President's motions be subsequent to that of the motion now before the Board.

Mr. Stone.—I think the President's motions should be now put.

Mr. Floyer.—I am of opinion that the President's motions ought not to be now put, for the reasons given by Mr. Jourdan, but can have no objection to their being put in due order and place.

Mr. Brooke.—I shall always pay the greatest attention to every thing that is moved by the President; but as the motion of yesterday is prior to those made to-day by him, and for the consideration of which the Board agreed to meet this day, I am of opinion that the motion made yesterday, in point of order and propriety, should be first put, and am therefore for the question.

Mr.

Mr. Stratton.—I am for the question for the reasons assigned by Mr. Jourdan.

President.—Against the question.

Carried by a majority of six to two, that the Right Honourable the President's motions be not now put.

Messieurs Brooke and Floyer having declared in their minutes, relative to the motion made by the former, and seconded by the latter, at yesterday's Consultation, that they never intended to convey any idea of neglect of duty in Mr. Russell or Mr. Dalrymple, by fixing a time for their departure,

Resolved, That they be furnished with a copy of the minutes, and that the Secretary desire their attendance next Council.

Agreed, That Mr. Brooke's motion be taken into consideration on Monday next.

Pigot.

Geo. Stratton

Henry Brooke

Charles Floyer

Archdale Palmer.

Fort St. George, 5th of August, 1776.

Revenue de-
partment.

Monday,
the 25th.

AT A CONSULTATION.

P R E S E N T,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President,

George Stratton

Henry Brooke

Alexander Dalrymple

John Maxwell Stone

Francis Jourdan

Sir Robert Fletcher

Claud Ruffell

Charles Floyer

Archdale Palmer

George Mackay.

Minutes of last Consultation read.

THE Right Honourable the President observes to the Board, that the Nabob's agreement for renting the Jaghire being expired, and the Honourable Company's investment at Ingeram, as well as at the Presidency, being at a stand, he recommends to the Board to take those important matters into consideration, before they proceed upon other business.

Resolved, That a letter be written to the Nabob to remind him, that the term for which the Trepasfore, &c. districts were let to him, expired on the 31st ultimo, and to request his answer as soon as possible to the letter which was addressed to him on that subject the 23d ultimo.

With respect to the other part of the President's recommendation, relative to the business of the investment, the several members give their opinion as follow:

Mr. Mackay.—I am of opinion, that Mr. Brooke's motion should be taken into consideration before the business of the Ingeram investment.

GEO. MACKAY.

Mr.

Mr. Jourdan.—I am of opinion, for the reasons I gave in last Consultation, that Mr. Brooke's motion should be first considered.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Mr. Palmer.—I am of the same opinion.

Mr. Stone.—As a very considerable and valuable part of the Company's investment has been provided under Ingeram, any stop or failure therein must be attended with not only immediate but future bad consequences to the Company; I am therefore of opinion, that the Board cannot too soon proceed to take Mr. Davidson's letter on that subject into consideration.

Mr. Floyer.—I think the orders of the Court of Directors are too positive with respect to the Committee of Circuit to admit of longer delay; and as the recommendation now before us is not, in my opinion, of equal importance to the subject contained in Mr. Brooke's motion, I am of opinion, that the said motion of Mr. Brooke should first be considered.

Mr. Dalrymple.—I am of opinion, that nothing is of more essential consequence to the Company than their investments. As I understand the Ingeram investment is at a stop, I think this requires the first attention of the Board; and it is necessary for me to observe, that I called in vain for Mr. Davidson's letter to be read. I also understand, from the Export Warehouse-keeper's declaration at the Board, a few days ago, that the weavers of the southern Pyokets had given to him a written declaration, that they could not conform to the resolutions of the Board, and that this branch of the investment is also at a stand.

Mr. Russell.—I am of opinion, that the Ingeram investment should be first taken into consideration for the reasons given by Mr. Stone.

Mr.

Mr. Brooke.—I am of opinion, that the motion I have delivered in should be first considered, as well from the importance of the subject, as because what I have therein proposed is in obedience of the Company's orders.

Sir Robert Fletcher.—I am of the same opinion with Mr. Floyer.

Mr. Stratton.—I am of opinion, Mr. Brooke's motion should be first considered, for the reasons given by Mr. Jourdan.

President.—I am of opinion, the business of the investment should be first considered.

Agreed by a majority of seven to four, that the motion delivered in by Mr. Brooke be first taken into consideration.

The Right Honourable the President then delivers in the following minute :

The President observes to the Board, that the motion before them having been objected to by two members of the Board, as reflecting upon them, he cannot think the Gentlemen from whom it came can still require such a motion to be put ; the more particularly, as it is impossible for Messieurs Russell and Dalrymple, who have no local knowledge in the Circars, to prepare themselves in so short a time for such a service. He must further observe, that Mr. Brooke, the Gentleman from whom this motion comes, so lately as the 29th of last month, gave his negative to Mr. Lathom's appointment, that Gentleman having " Had " no opportunity of acquiring any knowledge in the business on which " the Committee is ordered." The President considering also, that the Board have given Mr. Floyer permission to remain at Masulipatam, till he has had time to make himself somewhat acquainted with the Circars, he,

he, the President, cannot conceive the motion proposed by Mr. Brooke, and seconded by Mr. Floyer, can be supported on any ground, since Mr. Russell and Mr. Dalrymple are at present as little acquainted with the Circars as Mr. Lathom or Mr. Floyer.

The President further observes, that if the Committee of Revenue can be considered in any degree similar to the Committee of Circuit, Mr. Jourdan, who is one of that Committee, and has been in the Circars, would have been the properest person to have filled up the vacancy in the Committee of Circuit; and the majority of Council having excused him merely for his private convenience, cannot, with any decency, deny something to the convenience of other members, who are acknowledged to be in no measure backward in their duty.

The Court of Directors having been pleased to commit the inspection of the Jaghire to the Committee of Circuit, the President thinks that charge cannot be transferred to the Committee of Revenue, as recommended by Mr. Jourdan. The President is very well convinced of the necessity of enquiring into the many abuses and oppressions, and at the same time he is not ignorant, that it would be very pleasing to the Nabob to have that enquiry postponed, or made by his friends.

The President makes no reply to the minute delivered in by Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Messieurs Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan and Mackay, leaving the consideration of that to the Court of Directors; but he cannot avoid taking notice, that those seven members generally go together upon every question and compose the majority; minutes are prepared and agreed to, motions are framed and determined on, even before the purport of them is made known to him, the President, or the other members of the Council at large. The President is fully persuaded, that nothing he can urge will put a stop to these irregular proceedings, but nevertheless thinks it a duty incumbent on him,

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thus publickly to take notice of them, that the Court of Directors may see, that their President, instead of meeting with support from the Council, appointed to aid and assist him, finds, when they are assembled, it is only to give sanction to measures hatched and matured by them in private, and to put a negative upon every measure proposed by him, the President.

The President considering his own responsibility, as well as that of his office, confirmed by the Company's late dismissal of his predecessor for the measures of the Council, thinks he is warranted, by the necessity of circumstances, to *require*, "That Mr. Russell shall forthwith proceed to Tanjore to quiet the mind of the Rajah," which is the more proper, as the majority of the Council have been pleased to refuse the Rajah so small a request, as to *continue Lieutenant-Colonel Harper* in the command of Tanjore, and to declare that he, the President, will not assent to Colonel Stuart's proceeding to Tanjore till Mr. Russell goes thither.

The above minute being read, Mr. Dalrymple and Mr. Russell enter the following minutes :

Mr. Dalrymple's minute.

I shall ever be ready, at a minute's warning, to go where the exigency of the service demands, but I cannot be induced to think an undertaking, which will take *some years* to execute, can require a *day*, or even a *month* to be affixed for its commencement. I trust, therefore, I shall stand excused to our Honourable Masters in saying, that I cannot be ready by the day proposed in Mr. Brooke's motion, to proceed on the Circuit of the Northern Circars, in which my reputation is so much at stake, and on which I must be so long absent; and being convinced my Honourable Masters will not require more of me, as I am acquitted by the Board of every suspicion of backwardness to execute that, or any other duty, I shall, without apprehension, stand to the decision of our Honourable

Masters; and, although I cannot name a day when I shall be ready, nobody will suspect me of idling away my time.

I am in the same predicament with Mr. Dalrymple, and having besides dispatched part of my baggage to Tanjore, in expectation of proceeding thither in consequence of my appointment as Resident, I must beg leave to apprise the Board, that it will be impossible for me to set out on the Circuit on the day fixed in the motion.

Mr. Russell's
minute.

Mr. Mackay then moves an amendment to the motion delivered in by Mr. Brooke the 1st instant, by fixing the date of the Committee's departure to the 31st, instead of the 15th of this month.

Mr. Russell thereupon desires it may be minuted, that he cannot possibly get ready to proceed before the 1st of October; and the President expresses his hope, that the Board will see the necessity, where the Company's affairs do not require the immediate departure of the Committee, that a member should make it convenient to his own affairs.

The question on the amendment proposed in Mr. Brooke's motion is then put.

Mr. Mackay.—I am for the amendment.

Mr. Jourdan for the amendment.

Mr. Palmer for the amendment.

Mr. Stone.—I am against the amendment; and I am very sorry to see any day fixed for the departure of a member of this Board, as I have not the least reason to suspect that he will make any unnecessary delay, knowing the desire of the Board that he should proceed with all expedition.

Mr.

Mr. Floyer.—I am for the amendment, and have no other reason for giving this as my opinion, than that I deem the time of departure therein mentioned more consistent with the orders of the Court of Directors.

Mr. Dalrymple.—I am against the amendment proposed by Mr. Mackay, because I think the Board ought to conform to Mr. Ruffell's convenience as far as to allow him till the 1st of October; and I doubt not, before that period, the other members may be enabled to give our Honourable Masters a general idea of the state of the Jaghire from this our own knowledge and observation.

Mr. Ruffell against the amendment.

Mr. Brooke for the amendment.

Sir Robert Fletcher for the amendment.

Mr. Stratton for the amendment.

President against the amendment, as he is of opinion the Committee should not proceed at all *until he thinks proper*.

Carried for the amendment by a majority of 7 to 4.

Mr. Brooke's motion is then read with the proposed amendment, and the question being put thereupon,

Mr. Mackay for the question.

Mr. Jourdan for the question.

Mr. Palmer for the question.

Mr. Stone against the question.

Mr. Floyer for the question.

Mr. Dalrymple against the question.

Mr.

Mr. Russell against the question.

Mr. Brooke for the question.

Sir Robert Fletcher for the question.

Mr. Stratton for the question.

President against the question.

Carried for the question by a majority of 7 to 4.

Resolved, That the members of the Committee present be furnished as soon as possible with a copy of the orders of the Company touching the Circuit for their guidance.

The Right Honourable the President's motions entered in last consultation are then read as follows :

1. " That the Board will come to the resolution of calling up Messieurs Smith and Johnson to take their seats at the Board."

2. " That the Commander of the Company's ship Revenge be directed to proceed to the northward to bring up Messieurs Smith and Johnson."

3. " That if upon enquiry it shall appear that the *nocturnal visits*, mentioned by Mr. Russell in his letter to be made by the Nabob's Sons, be to the members of this Council, such members be suspended from the Company's service until their pleasure be known."

The question upon the first motion being put,

Mr. Mackay. I am against the question, because I think the sending for the Chiefs of Ganjam and Vizagapatam will be prejudicial to

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the Company's affairs, particularly as Mr. Johnson is a member of the Committee of Circuit.

G E O. M A C K A Y.

Mr. Jourdan against the question.

Mr. Palmer against the question.

Mr. Stone for the question.

Mr. Floyer.—When the Honourable Court of Directors granted a new commission of government to the Right Honourable Lord Pigot and the other members of their Council at this Presidency, as is usual upon their confirmation or nomination of a new President and Governor, they thought proper to include therein every member who they were advised had succeeded to the seats vacated by some of the gentlemen who had returned to Europe; so that by the introduction of Mr. Russell, Mr. Dalrymple, and myself into Council upon this establishment, the number of the Council at that time amounted to 19 members (of which number Mr. Hay, Mr. Stracey, and Mr. Cotsford were in Europe) including the President and the Commander in Chief; but they were pleased particularly to direct, that no future vacancies in the Council should be filled up until it was reduced to the number of twelve. Four of this number are constant resident Chiefs at the subordinate factories. Hence it is evident to me, that the number of the Board ultimately intended to govern the Company's affairs on this Coast are eight, including the Commander in Chief, whose residence at Fort St. George is precarious and uncertain.

We have till very lately been twelve members of the Board, and are now actually eleven in number; notwithstanding which the President moves that Mr. Smith and Mr. Johnson be called up from the northern settlements to take their seats at the Board.

To

To the motion I object for the following reasons :

1st, Because the Board is composed of more members than our Masters intended it should hereafter be composed of for the government of their affairs.

2dly, Because I think the delay which must necessarily be occasioned by the coming up of those Chiefs from settlements so very distant from the Presidency will be attended with prejudice to the affairs of the Company, and be inconsistent with their positive commands relative to the Committee of Circuit.

3dly, Because Mr. Johnson is one of the members of the Committee of Circuit nominated by the Honourable Court of Directors.

And 4thly, Because the Board have this day come to the resolution, that a part of the Committee shall set out on the 31st instant for the Circar of Chicacole, which is under the direction of Mr. Johnson and his Council at Vizagapatam.

C H A R L E S F L O Y E R.

Mr. Dalrymple.—The President thinking the present situation of affairs requires the attendance of a full Board, I give my assent to his motion, because it seems proper for our Honourable Masters to know if the actual majority of the whole Board do, or do not concur in opinion with the President on the political concerns of the Company on this Coast.

Mr. Russell for the question, for the reasons urged by Mr. Dalrymple.

Mr. Brooke. I am against the question, because I think Mr. Smith and Mr. Johnson are better employed for the interest of our Masters in
their

their respective stations than they would be at the Presidency, where there are already members sufficient.

Sir Robert Fletcher.—I should be glad to see Messieurs Smith and Johnson here at this time; but I am obliged to be against the motion, because I think it is contrary to the resolution of the Board respecting the Committee of Circuit; contrary to the Company's orders respecting the established numbers of the Council at the Presidency; and contrary to the express words of the Commission of Government, as it respects the Chiefs of Subordinates.

Mr. Stratton against the question, for the reasons urged by Mr. Floyer.

President for the question.

The question being carried against the first motion by a majority of 7 to 4, it becomes unnecessary to put any question upon the second motion.

The third motion being read and the question put upon it;

Mr. Mackay.—I am against the question, because I think it is contrary to every principle of justice, as well as to the established rules of the service, that we should make an act of Government to punish any servants of the Company, before an accusation is brought against them, or even before it is known that they have committed any offence.

If this motion is carried in the affirmative, any member of the Board, who may have been visited by either of the Nabob's Sons after it is dark, is liable to be suspended from the Company's service, though it should appear on examination, that the visit was not made with the knowledge or consent of such Member; and notwithstanding the resolution of
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of the Council, not to visit the Nabob or his Sons, has been rescinded by a great majority of the Board.

GEO. MACKAY.

Mr. Jourdan.—The majority of the Board having determined that the resolution of Council, prohibiting the Members from visiting the Nabob, &c. is legally, if not formally rescinded; I know of no offence in visiting or receiving visits from the Nabob or his Sons, and of course cannot consent to the motion. But I cannot help adding, that to pass the motion as it stands, would be inconsistent with my ideas of justice, as it would be condemning a man without giving him an opportunity of defending himself, nay even before a charge be laid against him.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Mr. Palmer.—I am against the question for the reasons given by Mr. Mackay.

Mr. Stone.—I think the motion rather premature, and am therefore against the question.

Mr. Floyer.—Whenever a charge is given, and particularly in so general a manner as this seems to have been done by Mr. Russell, I conceive the only proper and regular manner of procedure is, to call upon Mr. Russell to explain such charge, in order to obtain the necessary proofs, and upon the obtainment of proof of any delinquency, the Board, in my opinion, should then, and not before, proceed to pass such censure upon the delinquents as they may deem themselves legally authorized to inflict. I therefore think this motion of the President premature, and am against its being made until a charge of delinquency is brought and proved, not only against any Members of this Board, but against any other persons residing under the British Government.

CHARLES FLOYER.

Mr. Dalrymple.—I am for the question, as I consider the prohibition against visits from the Nabob or his Sons still in force. If such visits are considered as criminal, they merit suspension.

Mr. Russell.—I look upon the resolution prohibiting visits or intercourse of any kind with the Nabob or his Sons still in force, and any Member that has infringed it deserves suspension upon being regularly convicted. I am therefore for the question.

Mr. Brooke.—I am against the question for the reasons assigned by Mr. Mackay.

Sir Robert Fletcher.—I subscribed to the opinion given by Mr. Jourdan, and am therefore against the question.

Mr. Stratton.—Against the question for the reasons given by Mr. Mackay.

President.—For the question.

Carried against the question by a majority of eight to three.

It being late in the day, and some of the Members proposing to adjourn, the Right Honourable the President observes, that if any Gentlemen are to rise from the table not satisfied that Mr. Russell can clearly maintain what he has asserted, he objects to the Council's breaking up at this time, and is for going into that enquiry immediately.

Mr. Floyer agrees to the President's desire of having the subject of Mr. Russell's letter discussed at present, and the majority of the Board being of that opinion, Mr. Russell's letter dated the 2d instant and entered in last Consultation is read.

Mr.

Mr. Ruffell is then desired to acquaint the Board where he obtained the information, relative to Mr. Dawson's having had large offers made him for the purpose mentioned in that letter.

Mr. Ruffell replies, that what relates to Mr. Dawson he had from himself; which he mentions to his credit.

Mr. Dalrymple likewise observes, that what relates to Mr. Dawson he heard from him.

Mr. Floyer upon this occasion solemnly declares, that this is the first time he ever heard of this matter, except from that passage of Mr. Ruffell's letter to the Board read the other day.

The Right Honourable the President then observes, that the other passage in Mr. Ruffell's letter, respecting *nocturnal visits*, proceeds from intelligence which that Gentleman received from himself; but that having failed in his application to the Board to make the punishment certain, he shall keep the names of the offenders concealed until another opportunity.

Mr. Floyer gives it as his opinion, that the President should be now requested to explain to the Board what he means by *nocturnal visits*; and further desired to favour the Board with the names of any of its Members who he thinks have committed any offence.

With respect to the *nocturnal visits*, the President esteems all visits made after sun-set to be nocturnal visits; and when he shall see an opportunity which suits well with the interest of the Company, and he is well persuaded he can bring the punishment home, he will produce offenders, and not till then.

The Board then adjourn until Thursday next, to take into consideration the business of the investment at the Presidency and at Ingeram.

Pigot

Geo. Stratton

Rob. Fletcher

Henry Brooke

Claud Ruffell

Charles Floyer

Archdale Palmer

Francis Jourdan

Geo. Mackay.

Fort St. George, 9 August, 1776.

AT A CONSULTATION.

Revenue
Department.

P R E S E N T,

The Right Honorable Lord Pigot, Prefident.

George Stratton,

Henry Brooke,

Friday 9th

Claud Russell,

Alexander Dalrymple,

Charles Floyer,

John Maxwell Stone,

Archdale Palmer,

Francis Jourdan,

George Mackay.

TNE Honorable Company's Ship Revenge being under dispatch for the Northern settlements, conformable to what he mentioned in consultation the 9th instant, the Prefident lays before the Board, the draught of a letter to Masulipatam, that Mr. Floyer may proceed thither, if it be convenient to him.

To Charles Floyer, Esq; Chief, &c. and Council at Masulipatam.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Court of Directors having been pleased to nominate Mr. Floyer to the Chiefship of Masulpatam, next after Mr. Whitehill, and the same being vacant by the resignation of that gentleman, Mr. Floyer proceeds accordingly to take charge of that settlement.

Draught of a
letter to Ma-
sulipatam.

As complaints have arisen from the servants of the Company becoming security for the payment of the Kists due to the Company, and the influence they have had, and authority exerted in the country having been injurious in the greatest degree to the natives, who had prior assignments on the country, for monies supplied the different Zemindars for payment of their Kists, &c. We direct that in time to come, no servant of the Company shall, on any account whatever, directly, or indirectly, lend money to the Country Powers, or be in any respect whatever concerned in the collection of the revenues.

Lauldofs the Soucar, acquaints our President, that he has a demand upon the country of Opparow Zemindar, but this Soucar having been interrupted in collecting his debts, we recommend to your attention his particular case, and direct that you give him all proper aid and assistance; as also in recovering his debts of the Zemindar, Vaforiddy, and the Pettaporam Zemindar, although this last was during the Moorish government.

The complaints made by the Nabob to our Honorable Masters shall be removed by the land's being let out in future, either by the Committee of circuit or the President and Council here, and of this you will make public Proclamation, that proposals will be received until the first of March next, for the renting of that part of the Circars under your management, after the present term expires. These proposals must be for one year only; for although we are satisfied larger offers might be expected, were we to grant a longer lease, the Court of Directors would doubtless disapprove our so doing, before the Committee of Circuit had made some enquiry into that part of their estate.

Read the following letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot, dated 5th August 1776.

I have

I have received your letter, dated the 23d of July, and now reply to it in part; you write, that the term of the rent of Tripasore, &c. districts is nearly expired, and desire me to inform you whether I wish "to rent them for another year." I need not mention how regularly I have hitherto paid the annual rents notwithstanding the troubles, failure of rains, and considerable losses I have suffered in the past years. This I doubt not will meet with the Company's approbation; if they will do me the favor in future to take my security in the same manner as before for the Jaghire districts, it will be a kindness, and will also be advantageous to the Company. In my letter of the 16th July, I wrote to you concerning the tenants of those districts, and in reply thereto, you have not written explicitly. I have therefore sent enclosed, a draught for a Company's order, regarding the Jaghire tenants; do me the favor to send me one agreeably to that form, as it will be useful to the Company's affairs. After writing the above, your letter was brought me of the 5th August; as it relates to the business abovementioned, writing an answer would be repetition. What can I say more?

Letter from
the Nabob.

Draught for an Order from the Company.

IN like manner as the Company's Deputies, that is to say, the former Governors, determined that the Managers of the Company's Jaghire districts should allow the tenants their usual share of produce and other customs, conformably to the practice held in the time of Saadut Ulla Cawn, and that the tenants receiving the same, should exert themselves to increase the cultivation and population of the said districts; so also, an order is now issued, that the Managers of the said districts, do according to the practice held in the time of Saadut Ulla Cawn, allow the Ryots or tenants their usual share, together with the Inauns, Shotrums, &c. for which they have Sunnuds from the Soubadar; that the tenants do receive their usual share, according to the practice in the time of Saadut Ulla Cawn, together with the Inauns Shotrums, &c. for which

which they have Sunnuds from the Soubadars, and that they do exert themselves to increase the cultivation and population of the Company's Jaghire Districts aforesaid, in case of their acting contrary to this order, they shall not have protection.

The Right Honorable the President lays before the Board the draught of a letter in answer to the above; and the form of a Cowle, which he recommends to be sent to the Nabob.

To the Nabob

In the letter your Highness has done me the honor to write, you are pleased to offer your Highness's security for the Trepaffore, &c. districts, in the same manner as before, without taking notice of the new stipulations expressed in my letter of the 23d July; I must again therefore desire a direct reply, whether you wish that the said districts shall be let on your security for another year, on the conditions specified in the accompanying Cowle, and Guntoor Vencatachellum being dead, the name is left blank for your Highness to fill up.

The President takes notice, that a comparison having been made between the present Cowle and those granted in former times, many necessary things appear to him to have been omitted in the present form; he therefore proposes, that the following Cowle should be sent to the Nabob, to satisfy him in the particular conditions on which the Council propose to offer him the Trepaffore, &c. districts at rent.

THIS INDENTURE, made this — day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, and in the sixteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign, Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. Between the Right Honorable Lord Pigot President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George, on the coast of Choromandel,
on

on behalf of the Honourable United Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies, on the one part, and

on the other part witnesseth, that the said President and Council, for divers causes, and good reasons them thereunto moving, have demised, granted, and to farm letten, and do by these presents demise, grant, and to farm let, unto the said his heirs, executors administrators or assigns, all the grounds, houses, towns, and gardens, juncan places, and pollygars, villages belonging to the said Company within the districts of Trepaffore, seven Magans, Conjeveram, Trichiconum, Chingleput, Jagueer, and Wodarapet, Munnamungatum, Carangoly, Cavantandelum, Autremalor, and Salivauk, Covelony, and the rents and revenues thereof, to have and to hold the said demised premises, and every part and parcel thereof, unto the said

his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, unto the full end and expiration of one year, to be accounted from the 1st instant, and ending the last day of July, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven; he yielding and paying to the said President and Council the yearly rent or sum of three hundred and twenty-four thousand (324000 Pagodas) in manner following, that is to say,

On the 31st day of January	—	100,000
On the 30th June	—	124,000
On the 30th September	—	100,000
		— — — —
Making together		324,000

And if it shall happen, that the aforefaid payments shall not be made within the space of two months after the same are due, being lawfully demanded, that then the said his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, shall forfeit and pay unto the said President and Council for the use of the Company aforefaid.

It is also further covenanted and agreed by and between the parties to these presents; that the said his heirs, executors, or assigns, shall not receive, or cause to be received, the produce of such villages as have been appointed as Jaghires, or granted as Inaums, choutrooms, or charitable gifts.

It is also further agreed, that the said his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, shall not receive, or cause to be received more, or in any kind or degree whatsoever, for the rates of the Juncans then was collected in the time of Nabob Suadet Ulla Cawn; and it is agreed that the shares or proportions of the corps to be allowed to the cultivators and inhabitants, shall be the same as were allowed in the time of that Nabob; and if the said his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, shall act any thing contrary to the true intent and meaning of these premises, he or they shall be subject to such fine as the said President and Council shall adjudge.

It is further agreed, that for all persons that may come to inhabit within the limits of the demised premises, the said his heirs, &c. shall no ways molest or hinder them, but shall allow them such ground to build on as the President and Council shall think fit; and further,

That the said his heirs, &c. shall not exercise any judicial authority over any of the said Company's inhabitants, either by confinement, inflicting corporal punishment, or extorting from them any of their goods and chattels; but if there be any just cause of complaint, he shall make application for justice to the President and Council aforesaid.

And it is further agreed, that the said President and Council shall make a reasonable and equitable allowance for all losses the said

may

may sustain by means of the Marattas, or other enemies; but the said is to keep at all times, at his own charge, a proper Sibendy to preserve peace and good order. And it is also further agreed, that the trees in the said districts shall not be destroyed or damaged, or the sheep or cattle of the inhabitants taken under any pretence; and whereas it has been resolved, by the said President and Council, that the Company's weavers shall not pay any taxes, or be liable to personal service, a deduction of pagodas shall be made out of the last kist of the said rent upon that account.

And it is also agreed, that the said shall repair all the Tanks and Water-courses in the said districts, without any deduction from the rents, in such manner, that they shall be delivered up at the expiration of this lease in such condition as shall be approved by the Committee of Circuit, and that the money collected for such public purposes shall be duly applied.

And it is also agreed, that the said his heirs, &c. shall not make any mortgages of the lands now put under his charge or any part of them, or their produce, as such mortgages should they be made, will be considered as invalid.

And it is hereby further agreed, that the Committee appointed by the Honorable Court of Directors to make the circuit of the districts now let to farm, shall have full liberty to explore the said districts, and to ascertain the real produce and revenues thereof, the number of inhabitants, the state of the manufactures, the gross amount of revenues, articles from which they arise, the mode by which they are collected, the charges of collection, the specific proportions usually reserved by the Government, and that which custom or usage has allotted to the cultivator as the reward of his labour; to enquire also what security the native has for his property. And it being the earnest desire of the said Company

Company to free the inhabitants, as far as may be in their power, from undue exactions and oppressions; all farmers who shall exact more than their due proportion from their under tenants shall forfeit their farms.

Lastly, it is agreed as aforesaid, that if at any time a disagreement should arise, concerning any of the beforementioned articles, or concerning any matter or thing that may hereafter be disputable, and not herein provided for; in such case, it shall be left to the determination of the President and Council. In witness whereof, the said President and Council have set their hands, and caused the said Company's seal to be affixed to one part of this Indenture, and the said to the other part, hath set his hand and seal the day and year, first above written.

Witness.

Mr. Mackay. Some of the members objecting to the above cowle being sent, the President takes the opinion of the Board upon the subject, as follows. As the jaghire for some years past, has been let to the Nabob only by letter from year to year, I am for his having it the ensuing year in the same manner; adding what the Company say in their orders by the Grenville, that the Committe of circuit shall be at liberty to explore the country, and to ascertain the real produce and revenues thereof. I am besides, against the cowle now proposed by the President, because the terms of it differ from the letter written to the Nabob the 23d July, wherein he is told the conditions on which he is to have the Jaghire.

GEORGE MACKAY.

Mr. Jourdan. I do not approve of the cowle, or of that part of the letter relating thereto. It appears that the Nabob has never had a cowle; but that the Inaum lands have been continued from time to time; under his management by letter, he not having been considered in the same light as any other renter, and a letter having been written on the

23d July, to which the answer of the Nabob is insufficient, I think, that the Nabob should be required to answer the same particularly, and that if he consent, his answer shall be received as an agreement. After the letter of the 23d ult. to require fresh conditions must appear extraordinary.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Mr. Palmer subscribes to Mr. Jourdan's opinion.

Mr. Stone.—Although the Nabob has for some years past had the management of the Trepaffore, &c. districts without a cowle, yet as the Court of Directors have thought proper that we require from him particular stipulations with regard to these lands, I think that a cowle is necessary, and therefore approve of what is proposed by the President.

Mr. Floyer.—I concur in opinion with Mr. Jourdan, being induced to think a cowle unnecessary to be now tendered to the Nabob, as upon reference to the proceedings there does not appear to have been a cowle executed by any person nominated by the Nabob since the Year 1765, which was on a lease for three years.

CHARLES FLOYER.

Mr. Dalrymple.—I approve the letter and cowle recommended by the President, if the Jaghire is to be let for another year to the Nabob, either as principal or security; but I agree with the Board (Vide Consult. August 4, 1775) that the Nabob's having any thing to do with it is very prejudicial to the Company's interest; and our Honorable Masters having been pleased to express their wish to keep the Jaghire in their immediate possession, removes the only reason for which the Board were then induced to let these districts be continued under the Nabob. I gave my consent to his having it for one year more, in consideration that the Com-

pany have expressly ordered it to be a condition in the agreement to be concluded with him, that it should be open to the inspection of the Committee of Circuit; and I thought the proper enquiry into the value and state of the Jaghire, as well as into the most convenient method of managing it, might be determined in the succeeding year, with less risk to the Company than if immediately taken into their own management; and I also considered, that the minute enquiry necessary to attain a perfect knowledge of it would appear to the inhabitants, whilst the Nabob had the management, only as the measures of the Company's government to relieve them from oppression; but if it were done under the Company's immediate government, it might give an alarm to their apprehensions: but the late resolution of the Council, concerning the Committee of Circuit, renders all these objects abortive.

I think it absolutely necessary to define what shall be considered as repair to the Tanks; for it is said, Consult. July 20, 1764, "As the Tanks in the several countries are much in want of repair," Agreed, each bidder be required to signify the measures he proposes to take for repairing them. I am informed the several proposals imported, that a very large sum, it is said 50 or 60,000 Pagodas was to be laid out in repairing the Tanks. Vencatachillum, in his cowl, engages to repair the Tanks without any deduction of rent: no sum is specified, but I am told it was understood to be to the same amount as the other proposals; however, nothing of this kind has been done to the Tanks during the whole period that the Nabob has had the Jaghire under his management, which I am assured are in a worse state now than in 1764, altho' the annual taxes collected for repairs of Tanks in the several districts amount to a very considerable sum, which has been otherwise applied. In the Poonamalee Country alone the taxes on this account amount to 2,500 Pagodas, which in the twelve years, since 1764, is 30,000 Pagodas.

I do not think it can be said there are new conditions in this cowle, as the fine for non-payment of rent before the expiration of two months after due, is agreeable to the old cowles, which have been altered without any authority that I can find; and the present form of cowles has been represented by the Committee of Revenues as very imperfect: if this can be called a *new condition*, it is a condition more *favourable* to the Nabob, as in the cowle granted to Vencatachillum it is stipulated, that if payment is not made in ten days after due, the cowle shall be forfeited; and in that now proposed the Nabob is allowed two months.

Mr. Ruffell.—Whenever Lands are let I think a cowle necessary, be it the Nabob or any other person that rents them. The draught now before the Board I approve, as well as the letter proposed to accompany it.

Mr. Brooke subscribes to the opinion of Mr. Mackay.

Mr. Stratton.—On reference to the records read at the Board it appears, that the first cowle for the Jaghire was granted to Guntoor Vencatachillum, in 1765 for three years, and that since that time no cowle whatever has been entered into by the Nabob, or any other person in his name; but a letter was wrote to the Nabob when such term expired, acquainting him that the Board consented he should continue to have the management of the revenue of the Trepasore, Poonamalee, &c. districts, expressing the time on the same terms as they have been held by the Nabob for some years past. It is my opinion, that the same mode should now be observed, by a letter being wrote to ask him, whether he is willing to take the Trepasore, &c. districts, on the terms mentioned in the President's letter, dated July 23, which if he complies with, I think his answer should be looked upon as an agreement (as heretofore) that he will comply therewith, without his executing the proposed cowle, which contains new matter from that entered into in 1765, or the letter wrote to him the 23d of July last.

Vide Conf.
4 Aug. 1775.

President

President.—Of opinion that the letter and cowle should be sent.

The majority of the Board being of opinion that the cowle proposed by the President should not be sent to the Nabob, the following draught of a letter is now prepared in answer to that received from him, and entered in the foregoing part of these minutes.

To the Nabob,

IN the letter your Highness has done me the honor to write me, dated the 5th inst. you are pleased to say, that if in future I will take your security, in the same manner as before, for the Trepaffore, &c. districts, it will be a kindness, and will also be advantageous to the Company. As in the above letter your Highness takes no notice of the new stipulations, expressed in my letter of the 23d of July, I must desire a direct reply, whether you wish that the said districts shall be continued under your Highness's management for another year, on the conditions mentioned in the above letter of the 23d of July? I think it necessary here to set forth the Company's orders more particularly, with respect to the said districts, in order to explain what the Company are pleased to direct shall be an express condition, in the agreement made with your Highness for continuing the said districts under your management for another year.

That the Committee of Circuit be at full liberty to explore the country, and to ascertain the real produce and revenues thereof, the number of inhabitants, the state of the manufactures, the gross amount of revenues, articles from which they arise, the mode by which they are collected, the charges of collection, the specifick proportion usually received by the government, and that which custom or usage has allotted to the cultivator as the reward of his labour; to enquire what security the native has for his property; to deliver the inhabitants, so far as may be in their power, from undue exactions and oppressions; that the produce to be received by the farmers of every denomination be ascertained and exactly defined; and that all farmers who shall exact more than their due proportion from their
under

under tenants shall forfeit their farms, and that especial care be taken that the means of redress, in case of imposition or oppression, be rendered as easy as possible.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

Fort St. George,
August 9, 1776.

P I G O T.

The following minute delivered in by Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Messrs. Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan and Mackay, is now read :

Minutes of this kind cannot be written at the Board ; if they could, when divisions run as they have done, and when such doctrines have been held forth as we have heard, discussions at the Board would have brought on personalities which might have involved the Company's affairs in more difficulties than they now are.

Minute of
the Majority.

We cannot but observe, that the President hath given us numberless instances of plans prepared in the Cabinet and hurried through the Board, such as the letter per Ankerwyke, which ought to have been the effect of deliberation. The motions, for the President going to Tanjour, his powers, his diary, his motion for sending the Nabob to Arcot, the Chief and Council for Tanjour, &c. and we may also say, every motion he has opposed, has been delayed for consideration from day to day ; and since the President hath said the majority put a negative on every measure he recommends, we take this opportunity of assuring him, that whenever he shall propose measures to the Board, which we in our consciences can approve, he shall meet with all our support ; and whether, in our duty to the publick, we could or could not support the measures we have opposed, the Court of Directors will be able to determine.

We have so often heard from the President and Mr. Dalrymple of the Council being appointed to assist the President, that we are not surprized to hear the President speak of his *particular responsibility*. We will, to shew the futility of this opinion, insert the following standing order, al-

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though the very constitution of the Company is so clear as to render it quite unnecessary to any one who does not wilfully refute conviction. The requisition of the President, that Mr. Russell shall proceed to Tanjour, and his refusal of assent to Col. Stuart's going to Tanjour until Mr. Russell goes thither, are equally extraordinary, and equally inadmissible.

Standing orders from England, January 3, 1678, Par. 54.

“ WHATEVER shall be agreed on by the majority, shall be esteemed
 “ the order by which each one is to act; and accordingly every individual
 “ person, even the dissenters themselves, are to perform their parts in the
 “ prosecution thereof, and in so doing they do their duty, and must not
 “ be blamed for the event.”

9th March, 1702, Paragraph 2, of the instructions to Mr. Pitt, &c.

WE do strictly enjoin, that all our affairs be transacted in Council, and ordered and managed as the majority of the Council shall determine, and not otherwise upon any pretence whatever, &c. &c.

When Lord Pigot came to Council on the August, we understood, that on the evening he summoned the Council on a different business from that on which they had adjourned; he knew not that Messrs. Russell and Dalrymple intended to write the letters which are before the board. On the consultation of Monday, he has recorded, that he gave Mr. Russell the information touching the *nocturnal visits*, which Mr. Russell has introduced into his letter, and on which he has founded that extraordinary motion he recorded on Consultation, as the third he intended to make; let these circumstances speak for themselves.

Before we enter farther into the subject of the motions, it may not be unnecessary to make some observation touching the alarms of which the Rajah's

Rajah's mind ought to be quieted. We have in the Military Department given an opinion, that no such alarms exist; but that if the Rajah has alarms, the President ought to have explained them to the Board, that proper remedy might be applied. We know not of any; but we cannot help saying, that if any could exist, they most likely have sprung from the delay of communication of the resolution of the Board of the 14th June, as such delay may carry with it an air of mystery, and might raise suspicions; but even in this case, the blame would fall on the President, who ought, when at Tanjore, to have informed the Rajah, there were demands of Tunkedar's, Mortgages, &c. and that he could not of himself determine the validity of those claims. But if alarms arising from this exist, the most likely method to remove them will be, without more delay, to tell the Rajah, that he ought to have been informed of these demands from the President when at Tanjour. That we have considered the subject, and are of opinion, that the demands on the crop are consistent with reason, justice, and the Company's orders; that in consequence he ought to ascertain what the produce hath been, and fix upon periods for paying the same, as his finances will best admit. That the Company mean to do *strict justice* to the Rajah, *as he may clearly see by the orders which have taken the country from the Nabob, and restored it to him*; that the whole of the board have not agreed in opinion touching the grain on the ground, but that our proceedings go to the Court of Directors, to whom, if he thinks proper, we shall be ready faithfully to represent every circumstance he may desire; that their favorable disposition towards him cannot be doubted, and that, if they should judge this Government has erred, they may reverse that judgment. To which we should add, that the Court of Directors thinking the Company Guarantees of the treaty of 1762, *We are consequently as much in duty bound to support his just rights against the Nabob, as the Nabob against Hyder, or any other of the Country or European Powers.*

When the Company directed us to carry into execution a plan, which they were apprehensive might bring on consequences of the utmost

most importance, they judged the Board competent to determine upon it; and can we with propriety, when that business of importance is finished, when we have on mature consideration resolved that the Committee of circuit shall immediately set out, when we know that the business of the Northern settlements is of great consequence to the Company, lose a moment in a debate, whether we shall call up the Chiefs from the Northward or not? We have heard of the alarms of the Rajah, of the oppressions of the Nabob, of abuses existing in the settlement, but with a Council inferior in number, the business of the Company on emergent occasions hath been well conducted; we have denied the existence of just alarms, we are convinced of our intention to do the inhabitants of the Jaguire as well as the Company strict justice; and we think ourselves competent to redress any grievances or alarms, which may have occurred at the Presidency; we therefore could not hesitate a moment in refusing consent to his first motion; but what shall we say of the third? Can any thing more strongly mark the very extraordinary disposition and designs of the President, than that motion, that if the *nocturnal visits* were made to Members of the Council they should stand suspended? The President could not but remember that the Majority had determined the resolution of touching the Nabob and his sons, stood legally, if not formally rescinded; but he endeavours to avail himself of the want of form, thereby reproaching those Members who failed in the execution of their duty, and who did not exert their rights, by insisting upon the President's putting the question for rescinding that resolution. Unwilling to proceed to extremities, they adopted a mode they judged likely to answer the end without it; but the President says, when he shall see an opportunity, which suits with the interest of the Company, and he is well persuaded he can bring the punishment home, he will produce the offenders, and not till then. This is the return for our moderation, and that delicacy we have shewn the President, and which is but one of the many instances we might quote. This shews the necessity of a strict adherence to the principles of our constitution; but we hope the President

dent will not put us to such another trial. When the Company shall read, that notwithstanding their orders to Bengal, that a man shall have a copy of the charge against him, time to answer, and cross question the witnesses, *one of their Presidents shall endeavour to pass an order to condemn men unknown, unheard, on a species of offence not admitted as an offence by the majority of the Board*, they cannot but be astonished. If the motion had passed into a resolution, it would have reflected on those who had passed it; for it is contrary to humanity and justice, the characteristics of a free state; and only to be reconciled to the customs of those arbitrary Courts, where men have formerly been tried and condemned unheard.

George Stratton,
Robert Fletcher,
Henry Brooke,
Charles Floyer,
Archdale Palmer,
Francis Jourdan,
George Mackay.

The President observes, on the first part of the above minute, which relates to Mr. Russell, that that gentleman was, by a former resolution of the Board, appointed resident at Tanjore, although one of the Committee of circuit; that this resolution has never been rescinded; and therefore he should have thought Mr. Russell at liberty to go to Tanjore without infringing any subsequent resolution, provided he could be back in time to proceed on the circuit within the period fixed for his departure. That notwithstanding he, the President, was of this opinion, he had before mentioned his wish, that Mr. Russell might have express permission from the Board to proceed for a few days to Tanjore; but as nothing of that kind is yet recorded, he now repeats his request, and desires the sentiments of the Board upon it.

Mr. Mackay. I am against Mr. Russell's going to Tanjore, and will deliver in a minute on the subject.

5 M

Mr.

Mr. Jourdan. As I never have consented to Mr. Russell's going to Tanjore, for reasons before entered in consultation, so I cannot with propriety give my consent to it at this time.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Mr. Palmer against it, and will deliver in a minute.

Mr. Stone for it.

Mr. Floyer. I am against it, for the reasons I have before assigned, as well as that Mr. Russell has said he shall not be ready to go on the circuit before the 1st October.

Mr. Dalrymple for it.

Mr. Russell for it.

Mr. Brooke against it, for the reasons assigned by Mr. Jourdan.

Mr. Stratton against it.

President for it.

Agreed by a majority of 6 to 4, that Mr. Russell be not permitted to go to Tanjore.

George Stratton,
Henry Brooke,

Charles Floyer,

Archdale Palmer,
Francis Jourdan,
George Mackay,
Pigot.

Fort

Fort St. George, 16th August, 1776.

AT A CONSULTATION.

Rev. Department.

P R E S E N T,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President.

George Stratton,	General Sir Robert Fletcher,
Henry Brooke,	Claud Ruffell,
Alexander Dalrymple,	John Maxwell Stone,
Archdale Palmer,	Francis Jourdan,
George Mackay.	

Friday 16th.

Minutes of last consultation read.

Mr. Jourdan delivers in the following minute, in reply to that part of the President's minute of the 5th instant, which respects him.

Mr. Jourdan thinks it necessary to deliver in the following minute on the subject of the circuit, which he had prepared to have laid before the board, but the disputes which occurred prevented him from doing it.

Minute of
Mr. Jourdan.

Mr. Jourdan begs leave to observe, that Lord Pigot has misunderstood him, if he imagined that he wanted to take from the committee of circuit, what the Council had entrusted to them: All Mr. Jourdan meant was, that while the gentlemen were acting to the northward, the committee of revenue might collect and arrange the accounts against their return. Lord Pigot's minute carries with it an implication of want of zeal in Mr. Jourdan for the service, in having declined the vacancy in the committee of circuit. Mr. Jourdan hopes he may, without being presumptuous, say, that he has shewn as much attention and zeal

to

to the service of the Company as any of the members of the board, and that the board have been pleased to confer upon him, on that account, marks of their favour. He does also further declare, that having applied himself very particularly to the affairs of the Company at the presidency, he thinks he can render them more essential service by remaining here than by going upon the circuit, otherwise he should not have wished to decline it.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Mr. Russell enters the following minute.

Minute of
Mr. Russell.

Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, and Messrs. Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan and Mackay, in their minute of the 9th instant, found an opinion upon my letter of the 1st, and the declarations I made at the Board that there will appear to the Court of Directors an unwillingness in me to set out upon the circuit. I must remark in reply, that my letter was before the Board, when I was acquitted of backwardness in my duty to the Company, and that those gentlemen in this very minute, acknowledge, that it would have been *distressing* us to fix our departure for 15 days, and therefore extended it to 30. On urgent occasions, private considerations ought not to have any weight with this Board, and I should hope no member is capable of making them a plea for declining publick service. For my own part, I expressed my readiness to go to the southward agreeably to the President's request; but in the present instance, the short time allowed us being meant only to frustrate a former resolution of the Board, I submit to the Court of Directors, whether more regard ought not to have been paid to the declarations I made, and whether more time might not reasonably have been expected after I had made my arrangements for going to Tanjore in consequence of such resolution, and had even sent part of my baggage thither?

I cheerfully

I cheerfully appeal likewise to the Court of Directors, whether my declaring, *under such circumstances*, that instead of the 1st September I could not possibly be ready before the 1st October, to go to the northern extremity of the Company's possessions, on a service which will require years to execute, or Mr. Jourdan's reasons (26th July) for declining that service, and Mr. Mackay's letter of the 29th July, indicate most unwillingness?

With equal cheerfulness I further submit to the Court of Directors the propriety of what these gentlemen term a *remonstrance*. These gentlemen surely cannot mean to deny that a Member of the Board has a right to express his sentiments, nay more, to *remonstrate*, or even *protest*. What I said was founded on public grounds; and as the appointment for Tanjore, which still existed, appears highly expedient, I did hope that it would first take place; and the more so, as it was so understood at the time the appointment was made.

These gentlemen do Mr. Dawson great injustice, in supposing he gave the information mentioned in my letter to be brought forth at a future time; I declare such was never his intention, and it is a thing self-evident that it could not be, for he did not dream, more than myself, that the appointment of a Resident at Tanjour would have been overset after his departure; if he had, probably he would have laid open to the Board the various means taken with him to vote against that appointment.

P I G O T.

GEO. STRATTON,
HENRY BROOKE,
CLAUD RUSSELL.
ARCHDALE PALMER,
FRANCIS JOURDAN,
GEO. MACKAY.

Translation of a Letter from the Nabob to Mr. Stratton, acting Governor at Madras; dated and received the 27th April, 1776.

Received per Grenville, 26th April, 1777.

Letter from the Nabob apprehensive that Lord Pigot will put the King of Tanjore in possession of some districts of Ramnaut and Shokungee.

In my letter to you of the 21st April,† I informed you of the uneasiness I suffered. I now hear that some of the Company's Seapoys are on the point of marching, to take possession of some districts of Ramnaut and Shokungee, on a groundless representation made by Tulgajee, that they belong to Tanjore. The districts of Ramnaut and Shokungee are quite distinct, and appertain in no manner whatever to Tanjore. Tulgajee, through pride and want of moderation, attempted formerly, in Mr. Dupre's Government, to get possession of the above-mentioned districts, and for that reason was punished; he then disclaimed all future pretensions to them in writing; I am astonished that Seapoys should now be sent on the misrepresentations of Tulgajee. Before Lord Pigot set out, I wrote to all my Amuldars in the Tanjore country, charging them strictly not to oppose any people that might be sent by his Lordship; and my people accordingly, notwithstanding they were a strong party did not oppose any of Lord Pigot's guards, but submitted without resistance to confinement, although they suffered worse treatment than is shewn to an enemy, and some of my principal people were confined with disgrace. As it is notorious that the Ramnaut and Shokungee districts do not in any manner belong to Tanjore, insomuch that every child in the Carnatick knows it, I have not hitherto thought it necessary to send any orders to my Amuldars in those districts; I therefore have now recourse to you, and shall write to them whatever you may direct; do me the favour to inform me speedily, what instructions I shall send them on the points that have occasioned my writing you this Letter.

What can I say more?

Extract of Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, received at Fort St. George, 15th May, 1776, and received in London per Grenville, 25th April, 1777.

The Nabob continues to have Seapoys stationed at Shacaloor, Hanamanta-goody, and Mungalacor, and when any people hang up a flag in those places,

† See Vol. I. page 112.

places, to signify that they belong to me, the Renter Marcai pulls them down by force, and tears them to pieces; he likewise seized the renter of Vellampad, put him on board a boat, and beat him very severely; he and his people are guilty of many such irregularities; I hope your Lordship will punish them accordingly, and order these countries to be delivered over to me. My fort, my kingdom, and myself, do all belong to your Lordship. I always obey your commands, and therefore write these things for your information.

One lack and 30,000 columns of grain had arrived on the Coast the 9th May, and there is more going there daily; if there were boats and donies ready to receive it, the bullocks would quickly return, and the whole would arrive soon. I am afraid that rain will fall, and that the grain will be damaged, which induces me to write so often. Continue to write to me of your welfare that my heart may be at rest.

What can I write more ?

A Note enclosed.

Sea port of Trimalarajapatam is situated near the Subah of Majavaram, for which reason we sent above 10,000 columns of Paddy to the said port, in order to be sent to Madrais. As that said port belonged to the people of Caricol, † they put a stop to the said paddy and bullocks. You will be pleased to order it so, that they may return the said paddy and bullocks; we shall hereafter send no more paddy to the said port.

From the GOVERNOR to the RAJAH of TANJORE.

S I R,

Your Letter of the 7th of May made me very happy. I am glad to hear Yazarventarow Sooria Vainsey is returned to Tanjore; and I have read with much satisfaction the letter from Hyder Ally ‡ Cawn to you; every favour and mark of respect he is pleased to shew to you I esteem as done to myself, and it will strengthen the friendship between us.

I observe

† Caricol or Karicall belongs to the French.

‡ See the last page.

I observe by your letter of the 9th, that Bal kistna, Shaistree from the Marattas was come to wait upon you : it is very pleasing to me to hear of these congratulations from your friends; and I am well acquainted how proper your attention will be to them.

I am glad to find that so many of your trusty servants have returned to you, as has enabled you to entertain the Spearmen and Delayatts' you mention; and I am happy to find you are about repairing those fine buildings which of late have been so much injured.

I observe what you are pleased to write in your letter concerning the *Maloor Calva*; and I will take the necessary measures to keep that Channel in that state it has been these two years past.

I will write to the Officer in Hanamantagoody to put your people in possession of that place; and like orders shall be sent concerning Sacaloor and Mangalacotah, and I will make the necessary enquiries concerning the Chollair.

I will write to Colonel Harper to endeavour to secure some of those robbers you mention, that they may be punished in a proper manner; and I hope Tondaman † will pay that regard to the advice I shall give him, as will prevent any improper behaviour in the Polygars.

Proper people are ordered to receive the Paddy, and I hope they will be diligent in that business.

I have procured for you a fowling piece, which is plain and neat, and very proper for a sportsman. The thoughts of your taking these amusements gives me great satisfaction,

I remain with the greatest esteem,

S I R,

Your most obedient and most humble servant.

† Nalcooty Pollygar.

Extract of Fort St. George Military Consultations, 30th July, 1776.

Sir Robert Fletcher delivers in the following Minute.

In consequence of my minute delivered in ———, and the resolution of the Board thereupon, I shall proceed to point out the impediments I have to complain of, and to make reference to the several instances, wherein I think the powers to be exercised by the Military Commander in Chief, as explained and defined by the Instructions, have been superseded; and as the subject is of the first importance to the service, I trust the several members will examine with attention the real purposes meant by the Honourable Company to be attained, when they judged it necessary to define and separate the line of duty of the Military Commander in Chief from the former involved system, which, to use their own words, *had occasioned great injury to the service.*

The most concise method I can propose to the Board is, to state the several cases where I conceive the Instructions have been directly broke through, or the plain meaning of them frustrated, placing on the same page the Instructions alluded to: and, in order to convince the Board that my views never carried me to assume more power than the Honourable Company meant to be annexed to my station, I shall, in column third, lay before the Board the Questions I put to General Clavering, with his Answers now in my possession.

INSTRUCTIONS.

ARTICLE 42d.

“ That all orders within the Garrison of Fort-William and town of Calcutta, except such as relate to regimental detail, and to military discipline, or to the defence of the Fort, be given in the name of the Governor-General, who shall keep the keys of the Fort, and give the parole; but orders respecting regimental detail and discipline of the Army in general, including the Garrison of Fort-William, and troops

“stationed in the town of Calcutta, shall be given in the name of the
 “Military Commander in Chief, or, in his absence, in the name of the
 “superior military Officer doing duty at Fort-William for the time
 “being, who shall communicate all such orders to the Governor-General
 “by his Aid de Camp, or other proper Officer, for his approbation, be-
 “fore they be issued in the said Garrison, or in the town of Calcutta.”

A R T I C L E 51st.

“That if the Governor-General and Council shall at any time think
 “proper to issue orders, under their hands, or by their Secretary, to any
 “Officer in the Army, and thereby suspend, or supersede the specifick
 “commands of the Governor-General, or Military Commander in Chief,
 “such orders shall be implicitly obeyed.”

C A S E S.

C A S E 1st.

There can be no doubt, but that the order for a Naig and three Sea-
 poys, to be furnished from each Battalion towards forming a Company of
 Marksmen, comes under the head of military detail and discipline of the
 Army in general; nevertheless the Chief and Council of Ganjam did
 actually countermand my orders to the Officers commanding Seapoy Bat-
 talions in the Ichapore district: they writ publickly to the Board that
 they had done so, and there the matter still rests. The Chief and Coun-
 cil of Ganjam took this step on the supposition, perhaps, that they have
 the same power as the Governor and Council to supersede the specifick
 orders of the Commander in Chief, which power the Board itself, as I
 conceive the Company's Orders, is only to exercise, by issuing orders under
 their own hands, or by their Secretary. It is this authority assumed by the
 Chief and Council of Ganjam, which I feel to interfere with the duty of
 my office, and which is a contradiction to the Company's Instructions.

Queries

Queries put by Sir Robert Fletcher to General Clavering, with General Clavering's Answers.

Q U E R I E S.

Query. " Can General Clavering remove any man or men from one corps to another, without the approbation of the Chiefs and Council in districts under the subordinates? or can he make such removals in the other corps in the Army, without first applying to the Board?"

Answer. The Commander in Chief, by virtue of the 42d Article of the Company's Instructions, removes Officers and Soldiers from one corps to another, as he imagines will be most conducive to military discipline and the good of the service, without either applying to the Chiefs of subordinates or to the Board. This authority was exercised before his arrival, either by the Commander in Chief or by the Governor.

Query. " Do General Clavering's orders from Calcutta to the Troops at Patna, and the other subordinates, go through the Chiefs and Council; and do such orders receive any authority but that of General Clavering, before they go from the Presidency?"

Answer. " When resolutions are taken in Council which regard the Army, a transcript of those resolutions is sent to the Military Commander in Chief by the Secretary, and he issues them to every Brigade, and to every station, including the residencies of the Chiefs and Councils. General Clavering's orders never go through the Chiefs and Councils, nor do they receive any authority but that which is above-mentioned."

C A S E 2d.

Another instance where I felt an interference with my duty arises from the following complimentary note of the Right Honourable President, viz.

Note,

Note. " Lord Pigot's compliments to Sir Robert Fletcher, and desires
 " that half of the Marksmen may do duty at the Company's Gar-
 " dens, and half at Sir Robert's, and that all other Seapoys may
 " join their battalions, as it has been represented that they are
 " wanted for other duty."

Vide the late Instructions from England, and the Commission of the Governor and Commander in Chief respectively.

The construction I put upon the note, confirmed by the subsequent conversation between the Governor and my Aid de Camp, was, that without any order of the Board, Lord Pigot did actually interfere with the regimental detail and discipline of the army in general personally in some degree to me, in taking upon himself the disposal of my guard, as well as a select body of troops, which never made part of the garrison of Fort St. George; but as the Governor has since said to me, that it was not meant as an order, I mention it here that the line may be clearly known, and the Commander in Chief not subjected in future to such embarrassments. Those who choose to examine the (written) conversation, which passed between the Governor and my Aid de Camp, upon the matter, and my conduct in consequence of that conversation, will see, that I acted as if the *note* had been an order, and in contradiction to my own sentiments, expressed in the message I sent by my Aid de Camp to the Governor.

Q U E R I E S.

Query. If General Clavering were at or near a subordinate, is he subject to the orders of the Chief and Council? or is he subject to any orders but those of the Governor-General and Council?

Answer. The Commander in Chief is not subject to the orders of the Chief and Council, either at or near the subordinates. He and all Commanding Officers are directed by the 54th Article of the Instructions, to comply with such requisitions as shall be made by the Company's chief civil servants for troops. In drawing up this Article the Court of Directors have strictly conformed to the practice in England, where all Military Officers are directed to lend assistance, when required, to the Civil Officers. General Clavering thinks himself not subject to any other orders in Bengal, but those of the Governor-General and Council, excepting such as he may receive from the Honourable the Court of Directors.

A R-

A R T I C L E 45th.

" That temporary leave of absence in time of peace be granted by the Governor-General to Officers doing duty in the garrison of Fort William, or Town of Calcutta, and to all other officers by the Military Commander in Chief of the Company's forces in Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa, but such leave of absence shall in no case be extended beyond the limits of the said Provinces." Vide also the 42d Article quoted on Case 1st.

C A S E 3d.

My powers of granting leave of absence are defined with precision in the 45th Article, and yet it is a fact, that Officers doing duty in the districts under the respective Chiefships cannot avail themselves of this permission, without previously having the permission of the Chief and Council. If an Officer, thus authorised to absent himself, is, notwithstanding, to look to any other quarter for a confirmation of that authority, it is not fair argument to say, that the Chiefs, &c. thus assume a right to put a negative on my orders, contrary to the express terms of the Instructions, and actually interfere in the military detail of the army : and on this occasion I must add, that some of the gentlemen to the northward have actually given leave of absence, independent of me.

Query. " Who grants leave of absence to Officers in and near to Patna, and other places, where there is a Chief and Council ? and can General Clavering grant such leave, independent of the Chiefs and Councils ?"

Answer. " The Chief and Council at Patna, or at any other place within these provinces, do not grant leave of absence to Officers. Conformable to the 45th paragraph of the Court of Directors' Instructions, temporary leave of absence is granted by the Governor-General to Officers doing duty in the garrison of Fort William, or Town of Calcutta, and by the Military Commander in Chief of the Company's forces in Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa, to all other officers. No doubt can arise on the interpretation of this article."

A R T I C L E 49th.

“ That every resolution of the Governor-General and Council respecting the promotion or dismissal of Military Officers be communicated to the Commander in Chief in writing, and issued in general orders by the Governor-General in the garrison of Fort William and Town of Calcutta, and to the rest of the army by the Military Commander in Chief for the time being.”

C A S E 4th.

When the Company so clearly point out the channel through which they order the most material and important objects on which the whole constitution of an army turns, such as the promotion and dismissal of officers of all ranks, can there be a doubt of their intention, that in all other cases (those only excepted as mentioned in the Instructions) the same channel of the commander in chief is to be the medium through which the orders of the Board are to be conveyed to the army? I consider therefore, as tending to lessen my just authority with the army, and an impediment in the line of my duty, the issuing the orders of the Board through the Secretary to the ——— for example,

1st. For the march of the European battalion and two battalions of Seapoys to take possession of Tanjore.

2d. For the 1st and 3d battalions of seapoys to be held in readiness to march when the prosecution of the Maratta War was ordered from Bengal.

3d. For the relief of the garrison of Vellum, and afterwards detaching part of that garrison to Trichinopoly: and,

4th. For the march of the European invalids and pensioners from Chingleput to Madras.

I must here do the President the justice to say, that he did express himself upon the mode of issuing the orders agreeably to the late Instructions.

Query.

Query†. “Do General Clavering’s orders from Calcutta to the troops at Patna, and to the other subordinates, go through the Chief and Council? and do such orders receive any authority but that of General Clavering, before they go from the Presidency?”

Answer. “When the resolutions are taken in Council with regard to the army, a transcript of those resolutions is sent to the Commander in Chief by the Secretary, and he issues them to every Brigade, and to every station, including the residencies of the Chiefs and Councils. General Clavering’s orders never go through the Chief and Council, nor do they receive any authority but that which is above-mentioned.”

A R T I C L E 50th.

“That all plans or regulations formed by the Military Commander in Chief in time of peace, respecting the disposition of the Company’s troops in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa, be approved by the Governor-General and Council before they be carried into execution.”— Vide also 49th article above quoted.

C A S E 5th.

In January last, when it became necessary to carry into effect the resolution of the Board, upon a plan proposed by General Smith, for relieving the Seapoy battalions in the Mazulipatam circars every two years, instead of annually, the orders for this purpose were communicated to the Commandants of the different garrisons, by the Chief and Council of Mazulipatam.

In order to shew the Board the consequence attending this irregular channel of communicating military orders, I observe, that Lieutenant Walker, commanding Condapilly, at the time the above relief took place, addressed Colonel Flint, then commanding officer in the Mazulipatam circars to the following effect, viz. That he was informed by the Chief and Council of Mazulipatam, that they had ordered Lieutenant Clarke to march with three companies of Seapoys to relieve him in the command of Condapilly, and that he desired to know from him (Colonel Flint) whether or not he

† This Query and the Answer being the same as Case the 1st seems improper; but it is conformable to the original.

he should deliver up the fort to Lieutenant Clarke. "Colonel Flint, in answer, directed Lieutenant Walker, lest the service should suffer by his maintaining the fort, to deliver the charge to Lieutenant Clarke." It is evident, from the orders of the Board communicated by letter, under the hand of their Secretary, dated 4th November, 1774, to Colonel Flint, to send orders (and strongly expressive of his having the power to do so) to the garrisons of Samul Corah and Condapilly; I say, it is evident, that had Lieutenant Walker refused to give up the fort, unless ordered to do so, through the channel of the authority by which he was judged to hold the command, his conduct would have been entirely consonant to the articles of war, in a strict obedience to the orders of his superior officer. This occurrence might have happened in a critical situation of affairs, and it is needless for me to point out the detriment which might in that case have happened to the service.

Vide the Query and Answer quoted in Case 4th.

A R T I C L E 52d.

"That the keys of all the subordinate factories belonging to Fort-William in Bengal, shall be kept by such persons as the Governor-General and Council shall please to appoint, but in all barracks or cantonments the keys shall be kept by the commanding officer of the troops."

Vide preamble to the articles of war, for the better government of the officers and soldiers in the service of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies.

C A S E 6th.

The only military power which by the Instructions the Board can give to the chiefs of factories, is that of keeping the keys of the fort; yet in the general orders issued by the Board, of date the 26th October, 1774, it is directed, that "The chief civil servant shall receive returns of the troops from the military commanding officer."

The

The Chiefs of subordinates order and approve garrison Courts Martial. By a warrant dated the 30th March, 1763, the Governor and Council of each Presidency are empowered by the Court of Directors, by virtue of a warrant from the King, to authorise the Commander in Chief of each detachment of their forces to hold Courts Martial; and in my opinion they can delegate a power either for general or garrison Courts Martial, to no person or persons who do not hold military commissions.

Q U E R Y.

Can the Chiefs and Councils of subordinates order Courts Martial?

Answer. By a warrant dated the 30th March, 1763, the Governor and Council of each Presidency are empowered by the Court of Directors, by virtue of a warrant from the King, to authorise the Commander in Chief of each detachment of their forces to hold Courts Martial: I conceive Courts Martial held by any other authority to be illegal.

A R T I C L E 54th.

“ That the Commander in Chief, or superior Military Officer in every district, be expressly ordered by the Governor-General and Council, to comply with such requisitions as shall be made by the Company’s chief Civil Servants for troops, in all cases where military assistance may be necessary; and in every such requisition, the chief Civil Servant shall explain to the Military Officer, in writing, so far as may be practicable, the nature of the service to be performed; but the mode of carrying it into execution, and the number of troops and quantity of stores requisite for that purpose shall be determined by the Chief and Council; and in all subordinates, where there shall not be an establishment of a Chief and Council, the same shall be left to the judgment of the Military Officer, in whom the executive power is invested.”

C A S E 7th.

Though it does not appear that Military Commanding Officers are to comply with any thing but requisitions for Military assistance, when it shall

be thought necessary, yet in the general orders issued by the Board, of date the 26th October, 1774, Military Commanding Officers in the subordinate districts are directed to make returns, &c. to the Chiefs and Council, which is acknowledging the Chief and Council to be possessed of the same powers that by the former system were exercised by the Chief alone, and which appear to have been taken from them by the late Instructions from home.

Q U E R Y.

“ If General Clavering were at or near a subordinate, is he subject to the orders of the Chief and Council? or is he ever subject to any orders but those of the Governor-General and Council?”

Answer. “ The Commander in Chief is not subject to the orders of the Chief and Council, either at or near the subordinates.”

“ He and all Commanding Officers are directed by the 54th article of the Instructions, to comply with such requisitions as shall be made by the Company’s chief Civil Servants for troops. In drawing up this article, the Court of Directors have strictly conformed to the practice in England, where all Military Officers are directed to lend assistance when required to the Civil Officers. General Clavering thinks himself not subject to any other orders in Bengal but those of the Governor-General and Council, excepting such as he may receive from the Honourable Court of Directors.”

A R T I C L E 43d.

“ That in case Fort-William, or the town of Calcutta, shall at any time be attacked or invested by an enemy, the keys shall be delivered to the Military Commander in Chief, and the separate Military authority of our Governor-General shall be entirely suspended and cease, until such enemy shall be repelled and no longer; and if the Governor-General and Military Commander in Chief shall in either of the before-mentioned cases differ in opinion, respecting the exact time when the exercise of the Governor-General’s power should be suspended or resumed, the Governor-General and Council shall finally decide thereupon.”

ARTICLE

ARTICLE 53d.

“ That in case of the attack of any subordinate factory in Bengal, Bahar, or Orissa, the keys shall be delivered to the Commander in Chief, or in his absence to the superior Military Officer present at such factory; the mode of defence left entirely to his judgment, and the whole executive Military power vested in him 'till the enemy shall be repelled, subject however at all times to the control of the Governor-General and Council, or of the Military Commander in Chief.”

C A S E 8th.

The intelligence received by the Board of the hostile preparations of the French in India induced me to exercise what I judge a very essential part of my duty to the Company, viz. An enquiry into the state of the fortifications, provisions, and stores of the different forts garrisoned by our troops. In this enquiry I have met with obstructions. I have not yet received a state of the fortifications, provisions and stores of Masulipatam; the Civil Servants in that Chiefship being of opinion, that the information relative to the provisions and stores should not be required through the channel of the Commander in Chief. Though I have received a state of the fortifications, &c. of Cuddalore, it is here necessary to lay before the Board the *conditional* footing on which the information was given to Captain Tonyn, the Commandant of that garrison: this will best appear by a copy of his letter to me on that subject.

Copy of Captain Tonyn's Letter to the Commander in Chief, dated Cuddalore, 3d June, 1776.

S I R,

In compliance with your orders signified to me by your Secretary, I now have the honour to transmit a state of the fortifications of Cuddalore, shewing the repairs which are requisite for the defence of the Fort, so nearly as I can judge, likewise a state of the military stores; grain and provisions there are none for the use of the garrison. When in consequence of the directions I received, I sent an order to the Military Storekeeper of this garrison,

rison, to furnish me with a return of the provisions and grain laid in for the use of the garrison, previous to my examining the articles and requiring him to have the military stores in readiness for my inspection, I received an answer to the following purport ; " That he was much surprized at having " orders sent to him from me, not knowing that he was under my authority or direction ; however, lest the public service should suffer any " impediment, he had directed the store serjeant to attend at the store-rooms, " and shew me the stores ;" regarding the grain and provisions I was referred to the Chief.

As the storekeeper acts in a military capacity, I apprehend he consequently becomes subject to the orders, and under the authority of the Commandant of the garrison ; but as the storekeeper of this garrison seems to be of another opinion, I beg to know how far the Military Storekeeper can be considered as independent of the Commandant.

I am with respect,

S I R,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed)

J. Col. TONYN.

Vide Article 22d of the Articles of War for the better government of the Officers and Soldiers in the service of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies.

I conceive the Company's military establishment ought to be governed by the articles of war, in all cases where they are authorised by the State to enforce them ; the practice of the British army is the best rule to follow, in every case where doubts arise as to the mode of acting toward civil servants in their capacities of Surgeons, Paymasters, Commissaries, and Storekeepers, *where a Military Officer commands*. There is no doubt that persons acting under this description are considered as followers of the army, and treated as such in the British service ; and in particular, that such persons cannot absent themselves from their station without the leave of the Commander in Chief. The article of war here alluded to applies to the care of forces in the field : the question remains, whether persons serving in the above capacities in cantonment or garrisons, under a Military Commander, are

are not included under the description of the 22d article of war, and whether they are not upon this Coast as much under the authority of the Commander in Chief, as they are and have been in Bengal ever since the troops were regimented.

Q U E R Y.

Query. "Is it General Clavering, or the Board, that grants leave of absence to Paymasters and Surgeons of corps stationed out of Calcutta, and Fort William?"

Answer. "The Paymasters and Surgeons are considered as forming part of the army."—Vide "Answer to Query (quoted on Case second) beginning, "Who grants leave of absence, &c."

C A S E 9th.

The following movement of the troops and general orders took place by the immediate order of the Right Honourable President, given in his own name in a military character; and it will be found that his Lordship acted in that character, and issued orders not only to Colonel Harper, but to other Officers in his own name, both before and after the restoration of the Rajah at Tanjore. These movements and orders were put in execution without any communication with the Board, and were at that time totally unknown to me as Commander in Chief.

Vide the late Instructions from England, and the commissions from the Governor and the Commander in Chief of the forces respectively.

Vide the mode of conducting the service in Bengal, as appears from the answers of General Clavering to the Questions put to him by Sir Robert Fletcher.

Copy of Orders given out to the Troops at Tanjore the 16th April, 1776.

The Company of Artillery, under the command of Capt. Mackay, with the 2d Battalion. 1st Brigade, commanded by Major Marcell, to hold themselves in readiness to march on Thursday morning the 18th instant for Trichinopoly, leaving behind them one non-commissioned officer, and twelve of the Artillery, and three companies of Europeans, with their Officers

complete, who are to march to-morrow evening into the Little Fort, where quarters will be allotted them. The 2d and 12th Battalions of Seapoys are to march at the same time, and encamp in the Fauſſe-braye of the Little Fort, where they are to continue until further orders. Col. Harper will order a distribution of those places which can be converted into Officers quarters to be made to them. The hospital to be removed to Vellum, under the care of Doctor White. And Lord Pigot further orders, "That Doctors Gordon and Wilson do continue, the first with this garrison, and the latter to proceed with Major Marcell's detachment; Capt. Cotgrave, with the Battalion of Seapoys under his command, to hold themselves in readiness to march at the shortest notice."

In the instances I have pointed out, I mean not the least reflection upon any one man, or set of men: it is my indispensable duty either to see the late Instructions enforced, or to shew the Honourable the Court of Directors, and likewise General Clavering, the particular instances wherein I think, they are either superseded, or not carried into execution; and if, in the performance of this part of my duty, I shall not have the good fortune to meet the unanimous concurrence of the Board, I can only lament, that we should continue to differ, not upon matters of opinion of our own, but upon what appears to me to be the evident sense of the Company's late Instructions, which, at the conclusion of the 40th paragraph, have these express words: "The particular powers vested in our said Governor and Military Commander in Chief respectively, under the authority of the Commissions granted them by the Company, shall be exercised in the manner and to the extent herein after-mentioned, *and not otherwise.*"

Extract of Letter from General Clavering to the Court of Directors, dated Fort-William, the 20th of July, 1776; received per Grenville, 25th of April, 1777.

GENTLEMEN,

Understanding, from a Letter which I have received from Sir Robert Fletcher, that a majority of the Council of Madras had by a vote resolved, after reading the Governor's Civil and the Commander in Chief's Commissions, "That the Governor shall hold the same authority in all
" the

" the other Forts and Settlements on that Coast, which he holds in Fort " Sr. George ;" and had in consequence ordered Colonel Harper, at the head of three Battalions of Seapoys, and a company of Artillery in the Tanjore Country, to put himself under his command, and to obey all his orders; and likewise had put another Battalion, and a Troop of Horse under his command, to attend him to Tanjore: he found his Commission of Commander in Chief superseded, and the orders of the General Court frustrated and eluded.

He further informs me, that the Right Honourable Lord Pigot did, in consequence of that resolution, issue orders to the Troops at Tanjore, as Commander in Chief.

Under these circumstances nothing was left for Sir Robert Fletcher to do, in order to maintain the right which you had assigned him as Commander in Chief on that Coast, but to protest against those proceedings, and to wait the determination of your justice.

Of so deliberate and so conscious a violation of your commands, I may venture to affirm, the Journals of your Councils in India can produce no example.

Your orders were recent, clear and precise; they were contained in the Instructions which were to carry into effect the Governor and Commander in Chief's Commission, the first article of which declares,

40. " Having taken into our most serious consideration the disputes " which have arisen in India, on account of the powers claimed by our Governor and Military Commander in Chief, under their respective Commissions, and the great injury occasioned to the Service thereby, we " have thought proper, in order to prevent the like inconveniences in " future, to grant a Commission to our Governor-General, constituting " him Governor and Commander in Chief of our Forts and Garrison " of Fort-William and Town of Calcutta; and we have also given a " Commission to Lieutenant-General John Clavering, constituting him " Commander in Chief of all our Forces in India; and it is our pleasure, " that the particular powers vested in our said Governor-General and " Military Commander in Chief respectively, under the authority of the " Com-

“Commissions granted them by the Company, shall be exercised in the manner, and to the extent herein after-mentioned, and not otherwise.”

The Governor's Military Commission limits his authority as Commander in Chief to the Fort and Garrison of Fort St. George, and the Town of Madrafs-Patnam; and of all the Forces which now are, or hereafter shall be employed for the said United Company within the said Fort, Garrison, and Town.

The Commission of Sir Robert Fletcher appoints him Commander in Chief of the Forces of the United Company on the Coast of Coromandel.

When the terms of the two Commissions are compared, and the manner and extent of their powers considered, as declared in the Instructions, it must, I am persuaded, appear to you, Gentlemen, that the vote of the 25th of March last in the Madrafs Council, resolving, that the Governor should hold the same authority in all the other Forts on that Coast as in Fort St. George, and the exercise he actually did make of those powers at Tanjore, was an usurpation of your authority to cancel and supersede one of the most publick and solemn acts of your Honourable Court.

As the office and duties of the Commander in Chief on the Coast must remain suspended 'till your commands are received, I must beg you will be pleased to send such orders as will enforce obedience to the respective Commissions, according to the present Instructions, or with such other limitations as you may think proper to give them.

Extract of Fort St. George Military Consultations, 20th August, 1776;
received by the Grenville, the 25th of April, 1777.

Extract of Letter from the Commander in Chief,

To the Right Honourable the President, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My LORD and GENTLEMEN,

Being prevented, through indisposition, from attending the Council this day, I beg leave to lay before the Board the two papers enclosed, No. 1. containing

Letter from
the Com-
mander in
Chief, re-
specting Bat-
ta to the
Troops.

containing a comparative view of the sick in hospitals by the returns of the 1st Battalion, 2d European regiment now doing duty in Fort St. George for the last six months, and a state of that Battalion for an equal space of time while at Pondamalee.

The other paper (No. 2) which I beg leave to lay before the Board, contains the state of a Subaltern Officer's expenses absolutely necessary to his existence; it shews the impossibility of appearing suitable to his character, unless the late additional allowance from the chance of half batta in certain garrisons be restored.

Colonel Stuart, who took pains to make particular enquiries on this subject, has put his name to the enclosed paper; and I dare say the Board will find the facts to be justly stated. The Board most probably did not see it in this light, when they were pleased to order the half batta to be struck off in February last; and for my own part I am obliged in truth to confess, that my assent was an hasty compliance with the earnest request of the President, though he did not apprise me of his intention, nor consult me on the subject, previous to his making the motion at the Board. I hope, and most earnestly recommend, a reconsideration of this matter, for it appears upon enquiry to be immediately connected with the health of the Officers, many of whom, I am informed, are at present deprived of the means of subsisting themselves, or appearing in publick suitable to their stations.

I have the honour to be,

My LORD and GENTLEMEN,

Choultry-Plain,

Your most obedient, and most humble servant,

Monday, 19th August, 1776.

ROB. FLETCHER.

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Fort.

Fort St. George, — August, 1776.

From Colonel
Stuart to the
Commander
in Chief, with
statement of
a Subaltern's
expenses.

State of an Ensign's necessary Expenses for one month, supposing three Ensigns to form one mess, having servants in common, and provisions, &c. at the medium rate of the principal garrisons occupied by the forces under the Presidency of Madras, viz.

To the Expenses of the mess for provisions, liquor, &c.	Pices	8	21
Servants wages	- - - - -	2	0
Washing and dressing linen	- - - - -	0	36
Barber and hair-dresser	- - - - -	1	0
Each Officer for one month		12	15 is
For one year		Pagodas	148 12

Extra Expenses for one Year.

	Pagodas	
For one regimental coat	- - - - -	15 20
Two ditto frocks	- - - - -	24
Two hats	- - - - -	5
Eighteen shirts	- - - - -	15
Shoes	- - - - -	8
Stockings	- - - - -	15
Stocks and handkerchiefs	- - - - -	4
Breeches	- - - - -	9
Waistcoats	- - - - -	13
Cooley Taylor	- - - - -	5
Total Extra Expenses for one year	-	112 20
Total necessary Expenses for one year		260 32
The pay of an Ensign for one year	- - Pices	230
Deficiency to make good the necessary Expense	30 32	
The pay of a Lieutenant is	- - 3 0	260 32 In

In the foregoing calculation, no allowance is made either for the first cost or breakage of Mess utensils. The officers are supposed to drink no other liquor than that of the country, or Sherbet. There is no allowance made for wine, even in case of sickness; and the means are totally wanting to buy or to maintain either palanquin or horse amongst the three, although exercise is as essentially necessary to preserve the officer's health as the nourishment he takes.

The subaltern officers of the army, as I am informed, formerly found no difficulty in raising the money necessary to help them out in the garrisons, in which no half batta was allowed, because in the course of two or three years at most, it fell to their lot to be stationed in places where, by the allowance of half batta, they were enabled to save as much as to discharge debts necessarily incurred.

I am also informed, that the Company's proportion of the general expense of half batta amounts only to 9000 Pagodas per annum; supposing then the preceding to be a just state of an Officer's expenses absolutely necessary, it appears that no subaltern on this establishment, is able, with the greatest frugality, to live upon his pay, he must therefore run in debt, or be obliged to his friends (besides the time he may have served as a cadet) for ten or twelve years before, in the common course of the service, he can attain the rank of Captain; and although it may be said, that the Field Officers and Captains may live upon their pay after they arrive at these ranks, yet it is presumed, it never was the intention of our Honourable Employers, that an Officer should be under the necessity of borrowing money for ten or twelve years, or that in the higher ranks they should be entirely deprived of the means to lay up some part of their allowance for supporting them in old age, or when, from bodily sickness or decay they are unfit to serve the Honourable Company.

I have done my utmost to inform myself impartially on this subject: in my situation, you know, Sir, I can have no private view in it's success farther than the general good of the service; neither is it at the request of any of the officers, who, so far as I can see, think it their duty in silence to submit to every order of their superiors.

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The gentlemen who furnished me with the information do not know even the use I meant to make of it, which is to request of you, Sir, for the above reasons, and as essentially contributing to the preservation of the health and spirits of the officers in this climate, to take such steps as you shall think necessary to bring this affair under the reconsideration of the Board, in hopes that upon a review and further information, they may perhaps think it proper to restore the allowance of half batta in certain garrisons as formerly.

To Brigadier General
Sir Robert Fletcher, &c. &c.

JAMES STUART.

Ordered to lie upon the table.

Letter from the Nabob of Arcot, dated 25th September, 1776.

Received from Mr. Macleane, the 31st March, 1777.

His Highness the Nabob Wallajau, Ummeer ul Hind, Omdat ul Mulk, Aufuph ul Dowlah, Unweer ud Deen Cawn Behauder, Zuphur Jung, Sepah Salaur, Subahdar of the Carnatick.

To the Honourable the Chairman and Directors of the United Company of Merchants trading to India.

When I did myself the pleasure of writing to you last (which was on the 12th and 25th February) I informed you of the readiness with which I received a garrison of your troops into the fort of Tanjore, knowing such a measure to be agreeable to you, who ever have been, and who, by the blessing of God, ever will continue to be my best friends. I likewise represented to you, that seeing the orders which you sent hither about Tuljagee, and his restoration to the Government of the Tanjore country, must have proceeded from your want of proper information; I would therefore take care in future to give you regularly and fully every information on the subject of our mutual affairs.

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Was I, in consequence of this resolution, to write you now all that has passed since the writing of my last letter, great would be your sorrow for the sufferings of your oldest and truest friend. In judging of the friendship with which you regard me, and of course the uneasiness which you would feel for my unjust sufferings, I have two unerring guides to direct my judgment; the first is, a warm remembrance of the interest which from the beginning you have taken in my prosperity and happiness; the second is, the approbation of my own heart, which empowers me to declare, that in no one instance, from the day we began the journey of friendship together to this hour, have I ever strayed from the path of steady attachment to my best friends, or ever will, and of true affection for the whole English nation. As a man moved by his own and the passions of others, I may have often felt the conduct of your representatives in too disagreeable a light, and may have expressed my sense of it as such, as some of their proceedings appeared to me improper; but as a prince placing his dependence upon your faith, and the security of the English alliances, I can appeal to my God, that I have never felt any distrust in my mind, nor swerved in any degree from the resolution I early adopted, that of rising or falling with the sun of your fortune in Hindostan. After the long series of mixed fortune which we had undergone together, a prospect opened to me at length that filled my soul with the gladness of hope, and which of itself was sufficient to bind my attachment most unalterably and for ever to the English: I saw not only my sons arrive at maturity, but even their children promising further hopes: I brought up my children so much in the friendship of the English, that they can never depart from it: how great must my happiness have been in reflecting, that no power remained in the Carnatick but that of the English, and my family under the protection of the English and our rights. In this situation, the chief occupation of my mind was forming a plan, which, with the approbation of his Majesty and the Company, would for ever secure to my posterity the friendship of the English, and which would establish such a well secured interest in this country, that neither the power of France nor that of all the Hindostan Governments could ever endanger our possession of the country.

It is my warmest wish to attend particularly to two things;—First, the friendship of the Company and the English nation, which I regard above every thing, and which I am entitled to by the loss of my father and his fortune

tune in their alliance, as also by spending my youth and treasury with them; Secondly, as the friendship and alliance of the Company and the English nation exist with me, so should they with my children, and whatever power I should appoint to my sons, and whatever plan I should form in regard to them, should be confirmed to them through the favour and assistance of the gentlemen of the Company; and none of the English subjects or Company's servants should interfere therein. I am, without doubt, the firmest and most useful friend to the Company in India, and whatever I fix for my sons shall be with a view to preserve the tranquillity of the Carnatick, and the present and future advantage of the Company, and the publick safety.

That the forming and bringing to effect such a plan, equally for the security of your future interest and that of my family, was my greatest and sole ambition, some of your chief and ablest servants were well informed. How could I better employ my attention as a prince, an ally, and a father? Thus were my thoughts employed from the beginning, and especially from the time Tanjore was reduced, and an enemy of the Carnatick thereby, in my opinion, removed, who never would be quiet 'till he had either ruined the peace of the Carnatick, or his own power. Soon after the reduction of Tanjore, the disputes with the Dutch, and the threatened invasion of the Marattas, employed my attention: afterwards such disputes arose among your servants here as rendered it impossible for me, during that period of party and misrepresentation to address you. Not 'till the arrival of Lord Pigot did these disputes cease entirely in their effect; judge then, my friends, what a shock my heart must have felt on understanding from his Lordship the business on which he came; in one hour I saw the labour of my whole life, the honours of my alliance with the English, exposed to the most public disgrace, my enemies raised to the most unmerited power, and the thorn of our mutual destruction planted in the garden, in the clearing of which our joint labours have been employed for upwards of thirty-five years. What I felt upon this occasion, that power can alone know, who fees the inside of the human soul; but in this hour of extremity I testified to you and to the world the most unshaken firmness of friendship, and the firmest dependence upon the ultimate justice of the Company: to recite to you, step by step, the measures which were adopted by Lord Pigot, to violate your sacred engagements for the protection of my country, my person, and my

my honour, would be a heavy task, and such as the present low situation of Lord Pigot would render painful to my mind ; it is sufficient that I have acquainted your servants at Bengal, and that they will inform you. What have I done to be thus treated ? is there one single act of my conduct that can be fairly placed in the scale against me as a reason for such injuries ? Finding the innumerable difficulties amidst which I was thrown, and considering that in attempting to extricate myself, I might only commit some error contrary to my old friendship to the Company, I thought it better to permit Lord Pigot to do as he pleased, and to reserve to myself only the right of representation : this was all the opposition made by me to even the most violent acts of his Lordship's oppression ; by this conduct I hope not only to merit your approbation, but to obtain from you public redress for every injustice that has been done me. You will now see very clearly how necessary it is for you to draw a line of protection and security round my rights and privileges, to prevent the future ill conduct of any of your governing servants. It appears to me likewise, that from the violence that has prevailed in the Councils of your servants, it becomes not me to give my opinion relative to their internal disputes ; this is a business, of which you alone are the proper judges ; I have neither right nor wish to interfere in it, therefore I do not meddle with it ; it is sufficient for me to observe, that I am continually unhappy when there are such disputes. For promoting the advantage and prosperity of your affairs, and the tranquillity of the Carnatick and the public safety, I have and ever will assist your Representatives the Government here ; they have confirmed to me your promises of friendship, therefore I hope our mutual business will flourish. It is well known, that your orders in regard to Tanjore were given in consequence of groundless reports that prevailed in England, and from your not being informed of the real state of affairs here : and though Lord Pigot, when he arrived at Madras, plainly perceived that matters had been misrepresented, and though I told him so, and requested him verbally, and by letter (after representing to him the true state of affairs) to wait your further orders, and not to destroy the rights of your old friend, he gave no attention to me ; it was unnecessary for his Lordship to have proceeded as he did, when he plainly saw that matters had been misrepresented ; but his seizure of the crop that was on the grounds, and which I had sowed and cultivated at an immense expense, was an act that could never be warranted ; and unless you give orders to restore me the Tanjore country, which is my right, I shall never be
able

able to pay my debts, or to clear my affairs of embarrassment. The business of leaving such a large sum of money as the revenues of Tanjore in the hands of the Rajah, who is disencumbered by his situation of debt or any great publick expense, while the rest of the Carnatick can hardly pay the interest of it's debts incurred by taking Tanjore, is a piece of ruinous injustice, and totally contrary to the good sense of your orders about Tanjore in 1769. Tulgajee will certainly employ the revenues in getting the Marattas, the French, or the Dutch, to extricate him from the hands of the English; your shewing such favour to him (after the many attempts he has made to destroy the peace of the Carnatick) is just as bad as shewing favour to the French, the Dutch, or Hyder Ally. You will hear probably from Colonel Upton, your Vakeel at Poona, what he has discovered of the conduct of Tulgajee's emissaries there ever since Lord Pigot's restoration of him. I inform you of it as a certainty, which will soon shew itself clearly, that he has likewise renewed his old connexions with the Dutch; but why should I write you on this subject now? I am confident, that in consequence of my former representations to you of my rights and distresses, you must have long before now repealed the orders, which Lord Pigot often told me he had obtained from you by his own influence, but which you cannot but disapprove of, on the least consideration of the purposes for which they were obtained. I am ready at all times to give the Rajah a sufficient maintenance, and every security for himself and his family's protection. There are many others of my subjects in my dominions possessed of rights and antiquity superior to Tulgajee: I never molest them, and it is well known with what tenderness I treat them, while they do not attempt independence of my authority.

Next to the bad policy and injustice of violating publick engagements to your Allies, is certainly the bad faith of giving protection to any of the people that belong to your Allies, and who desert their masters; I have a heavy complaint to make on this subject, and I particularly request, you will give the strongest orders to your Servants not to interfere with my jurisdiction over my own people, nor to interfere in the affairs of my Family, or Internal Government.

I have fully explained my situation to your faithful Servants at Bengal, and have now laid my inmost thoughts before you; what remaineth for me then, but to place my whole dependence in your justice and support,
and

and to renew to you my declaration of this truth, which is, that while I live my attachment and that of my Family shall remain unalterably strong towards my best Friends, the Company, and the whole English Nation.

What can I say more ?

Given at Chepauk, Sept. 25th, 1776.

P. S. I enclose for your information a copy of the last Letter which the Governor of Madrafs has sent me : it enclosed a copy of the Resolutions of the Governor-General and Council, which I likewise send.

From the day of Lord Pigot's arrival to his being deposed, the time that should have been employed in promoting the business of the Company and me, and establishing the tranquillity of the Carnatick, was spent in disputes and disagreements amongst your Servants. After his Lordship had finished the Tanjore business, I told him, that what he had done was contrary to my rights, and that I would make my representations fully to the Company, and expect justice from England; that he ought then to give his attention to the business of the Company, and the advantage of the Carnatick and publick affairs; but his Lordship gave no attention to any thing, except to carrying on such business as answered his own purposes, and which he had planned in England, and came here to execute. I am the first and firmest friend to the Company in India, and I consider our prosperity and adversity as mutual; and every thing which I think for the advantage of your affairs and the Carnatick I always lay before your Representatives here. In the Government of Mr. Wynch, I acquainted him by letter with the intention of Hyder Ally Cawn to conquer the Cudapor Country, dependent upon the Carnatick, and also the Countries of Adony, Humoul, and that of Morarow. They had applied to me, and informed me, that if the Company and I would assist them, they and their Troops would always be attached to us in good and bad fortune: this I laid before Mr. Wynch, and told him, that if he would comply with it, I would send a Garrison of my Troops to Cudapor; that Bazalet Jung, Phousdar of Adony, Manour Cawn, Phousdar of Humoul, Morarow, a friend of the Company, and the Zemindars in those parts, could assemble troops to the amount of twelve thousand horse, and fifteen or

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twenty

twenty thousand Seapoys, and would join us without any expense to us; that those Troops, with the Company's and mine, would be capable of keeping Hyder Ally in awe, and preventing him from raising troubles or adding to his power, and that he would be thereby obliged to be subject to our orders.

After Lord Pigot's arrival here, Hyder Ally formed an alliance with the Phousdar of Cudapor, defeated Bazalet Jung's Troops, and marching against the Fort of Guttee, where Morarow resided, he invested it; and though I applied to his Lordship to write to Hyder Ally that Morarow was included in a treaty of alliance with the Company, and that he should not attack him, his Lordship would not comply; therefore the Fort and Country of Morarow fell into Hyder Ally's hands, and he himself was made prisoner, and carried in the most disgraceful manner to Serringapatam, where he has received, and now receives, every kind of dishonour and injury. Now that Hyder Ally has got possession of the Country of Morarow, and in fact governs Cudapor, Cumoul, and Adony, there is no end of his arrogance; and he is daily employed in largely encreasing his Troops and Military Stores: he has wrote to France, requesting a considerable number of Troops to be sent to him, and offering to pay for them; and he has also prevailed on the Governor of Negapatam to write to Batavia for the same purpose. His sole intention is to raise disturbances in the Carnatick, and to destroy the English. A number of his Troops are assembled towards Dindegul, near Madura, which is part of my Country, and in the district of Jugdee, which is in the neighbourhood of the Fort of Ambore and Vellore, belonging to me.

To be able to oppose Hyder Ally, it is necessary that the Company should have Cavalry; seeing this, I raised some regiments, but from the bad air in this county many of the horses died, therefore I used every year to buy others, for completing the regiments at the feast of Tripety, which is in my country, where the dealers used to bring their horses to sell; but from Hyder Ally's interfering in the Cudapor Country, and posting his people in all the roads leading to Tripety, and even within three cots of it, he forcibly stops all the horses, and sends them into his own country: he also stops the merchants; therefore it is very difficult for me to get either horses, camels, or gold cloths. My regiments now want many horses, and I cannot supply them. It is the intention of Hyder Ally Cawn to overpower the English, by having a large body of horse, and by not letting us have any. As I am a true friend to you, gentlemen, I write thus fully for your information, and hope for the peace of the Carnatick and the prosperity of my affairs from your friendship and assistance.

Extract of a Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, dated 7th May, 1776.

Ishaventarow, who had been in my service, fled to Hyder's Country after this fort was taken ; when he heard that your Lordship had been pleased to re-establish me in my Dominions, he asked Hyder's permission to return hither. Hyder desired him to carry a Letter, together with a present of a dress, and some horses for me ; Ishaventarow told him, that if he went as his Vackeel he could obey his commands with propriety, but not otherwise. Hyder told him, that he must at all events carry a Letter, which he did, and presented it to me ; it is enclosed for your Lordship's perusal, and I wait your orders concerning it.

Translation of a Letter from Hyder Ally to the Rajah of Tanjore.

I received with great pleasure the accounts of your restoration from my Vackeel at Madras ; six months before you lost Tanjore I frequently wrote you of your approaching danger, but I have not been able to learn whether you thought my advice worthy of attention. It was your fate that these things should happen : however, by the favour of the Almighty your kingdom has been restored to you. The Europeans have shewn you great marks of friendship and regard ; you must therefore abide by their advice, and they will continue to assist you.

Ishaventarow took up his residence here some time ; he is very desirous to return to you. When he signified his intention to me, I gave him leave to depart. He is a man of family, and your servant, and will inform you of every thing relating to this Country.

Let me hear of your welfare that I may rejoice.—What can I say more?

T H E E N D.